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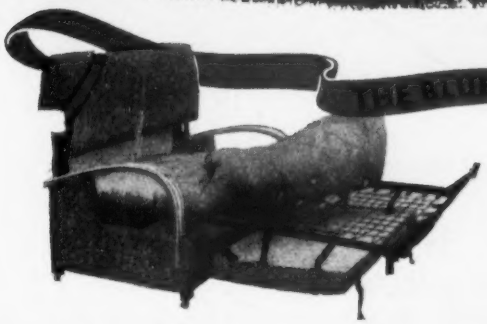

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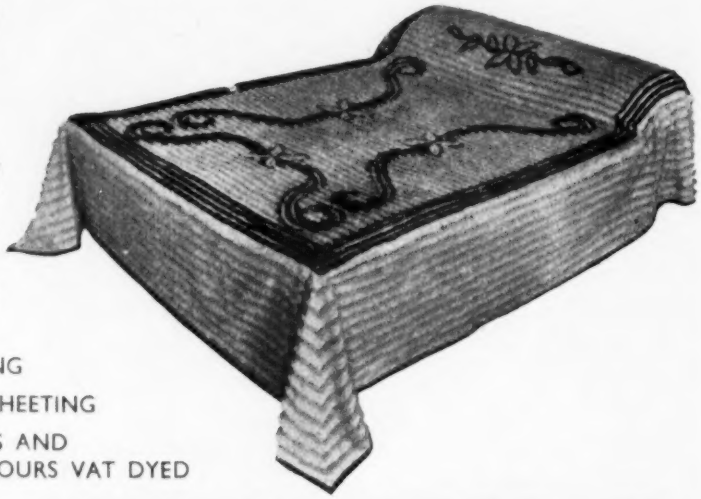

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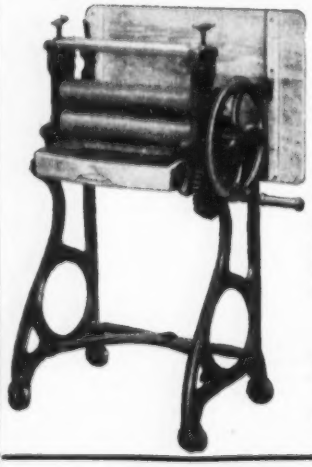

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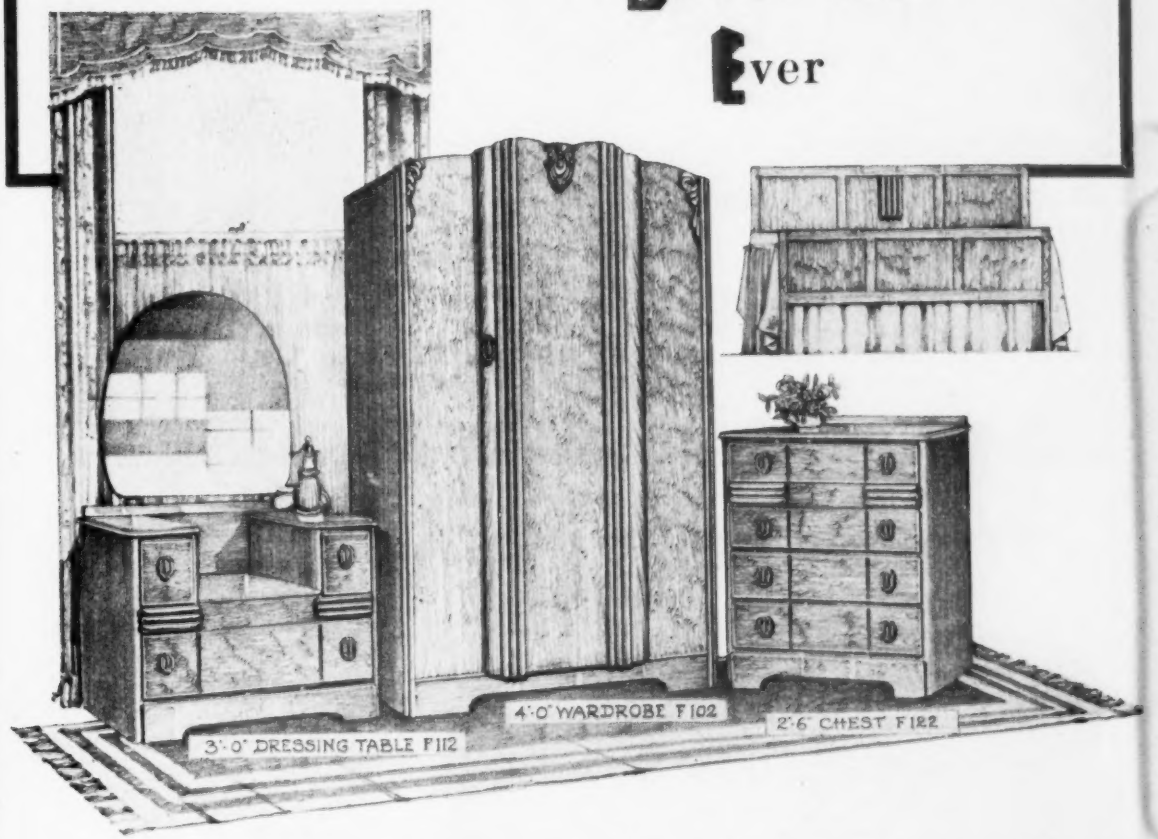

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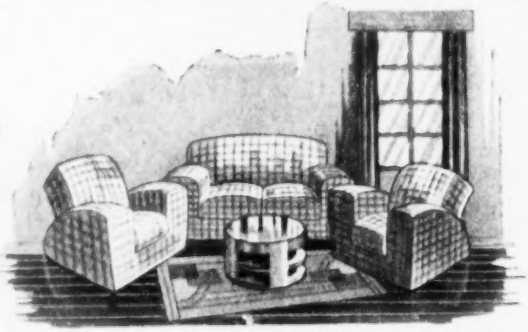

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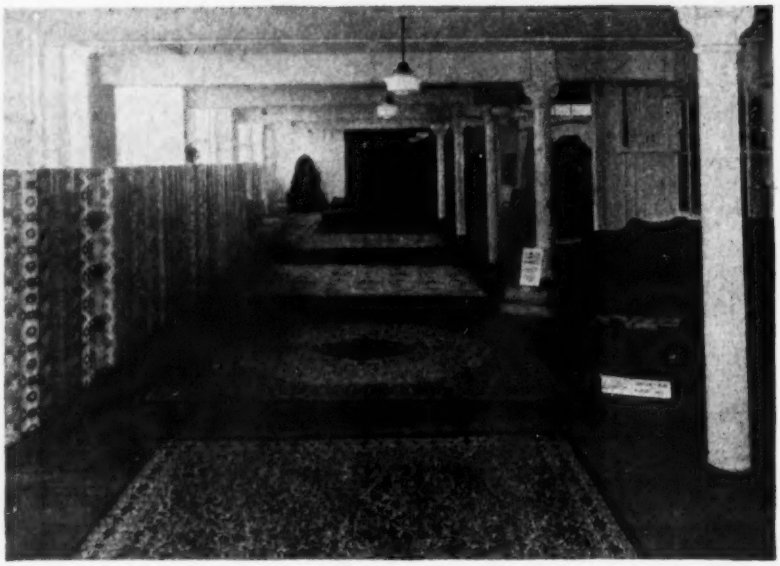

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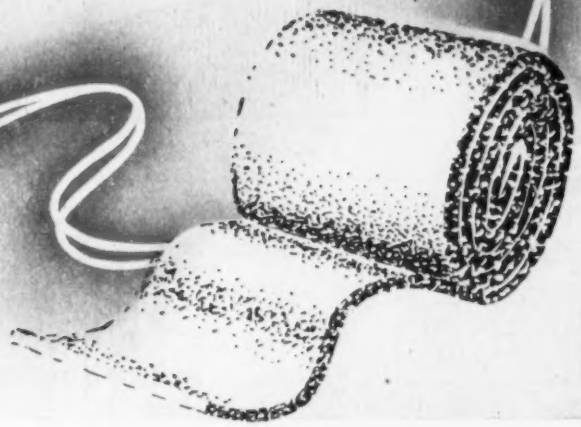

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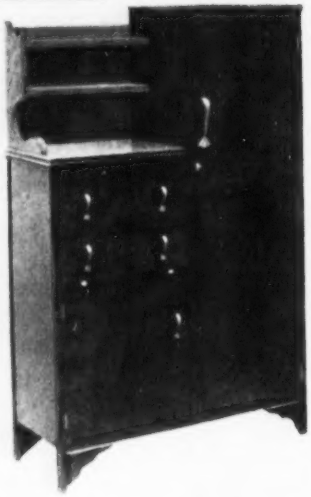

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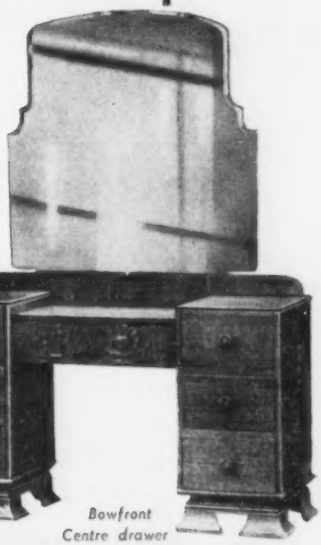

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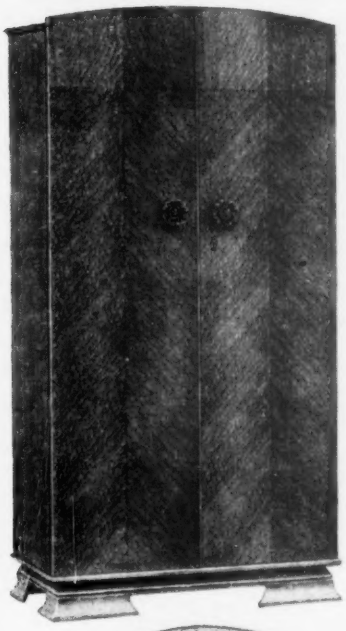

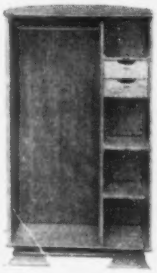

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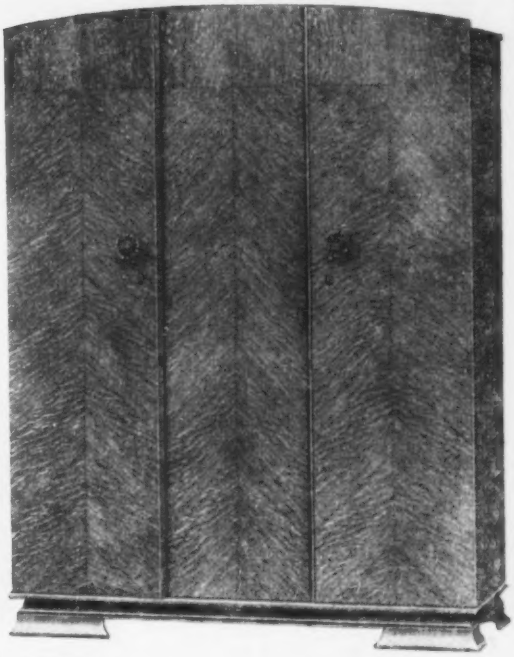

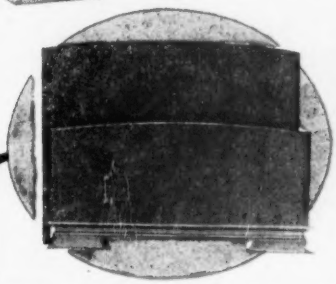

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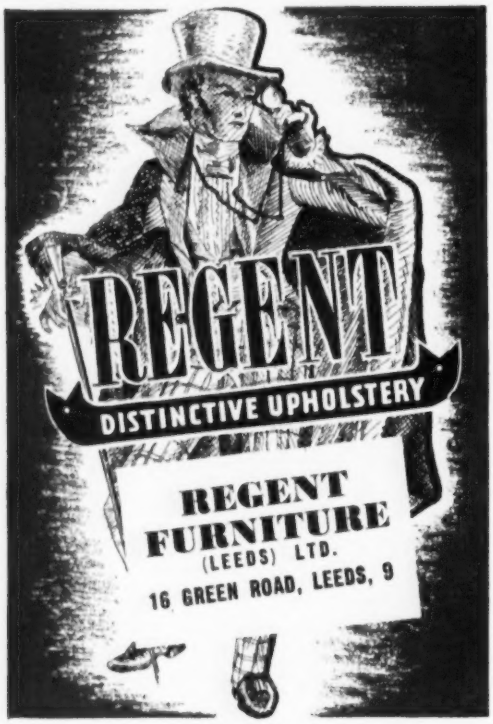

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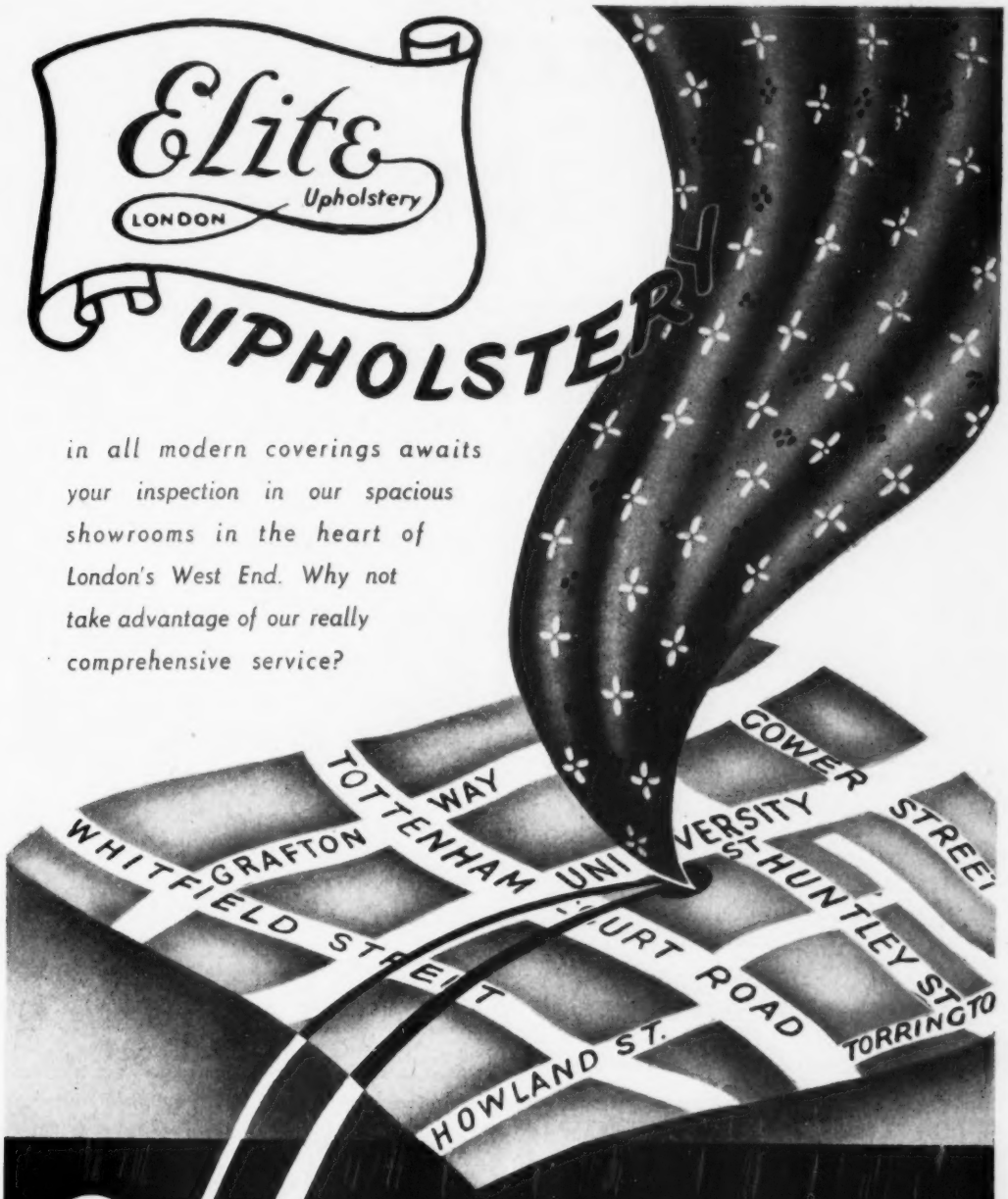

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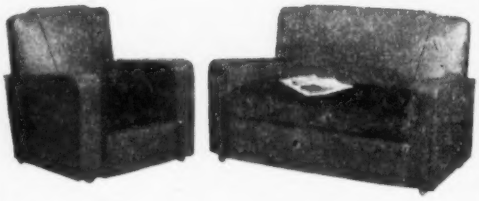

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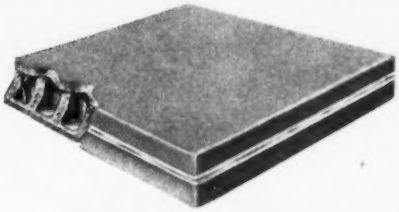

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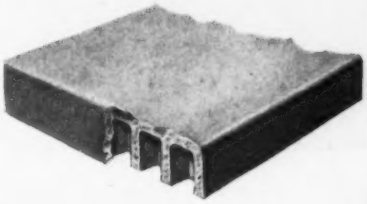

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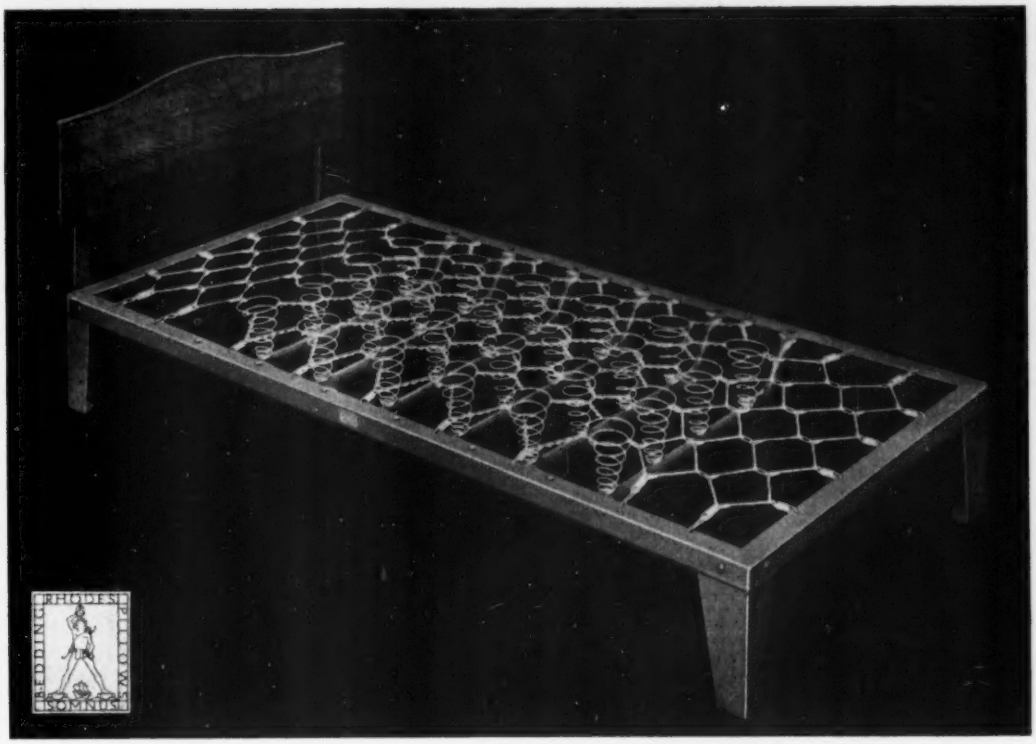

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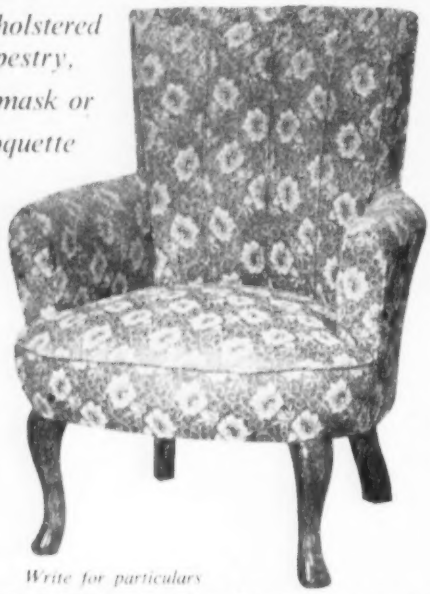

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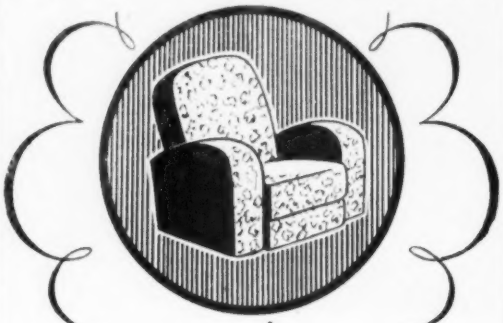

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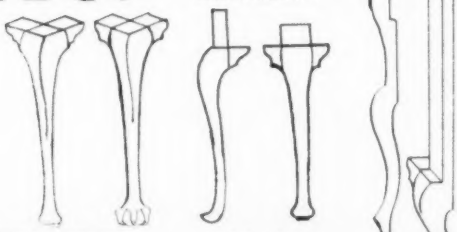

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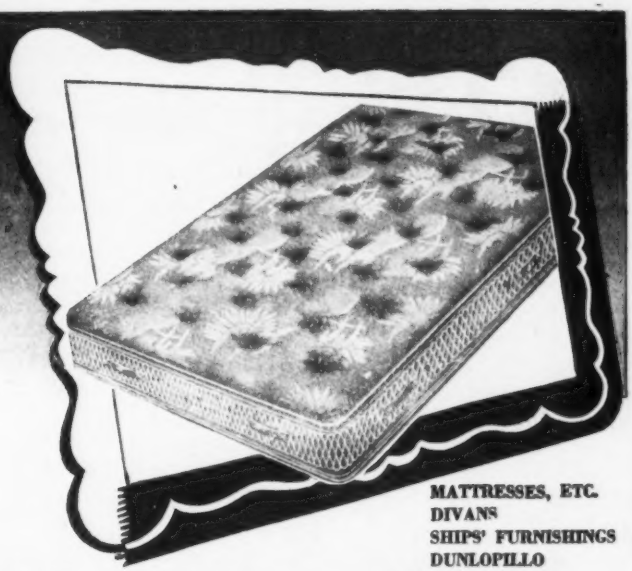

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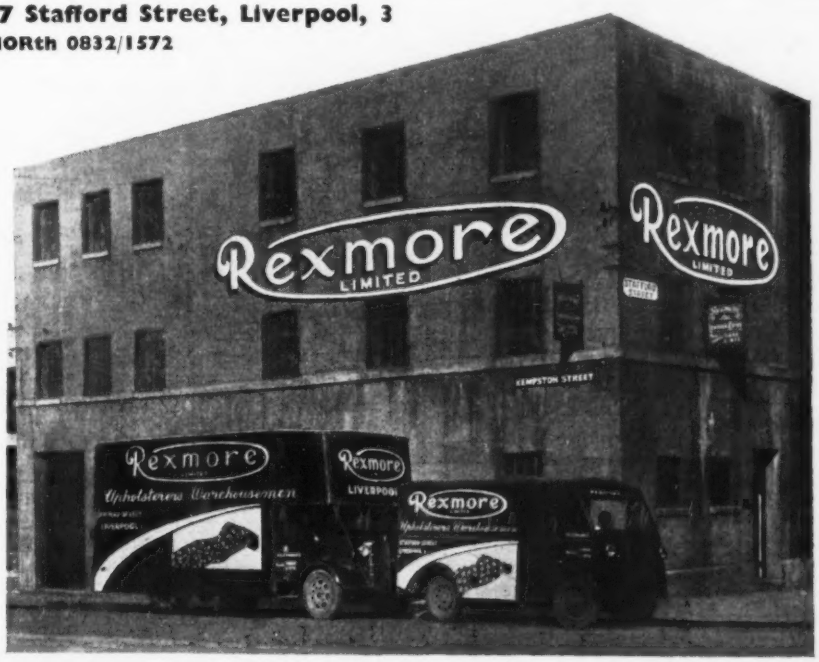

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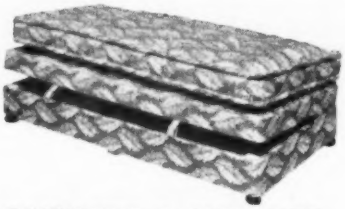

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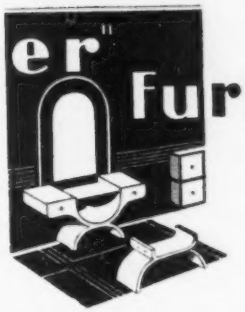

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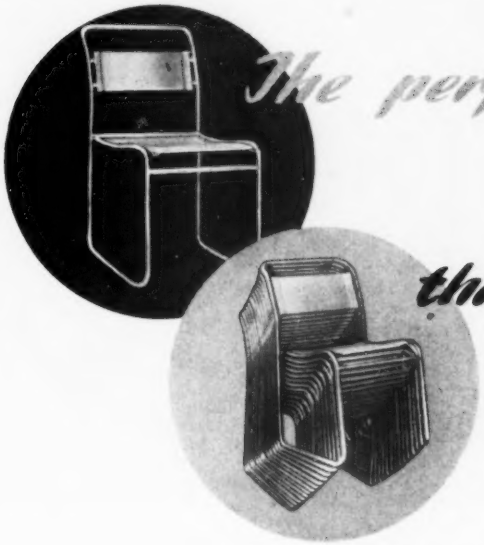

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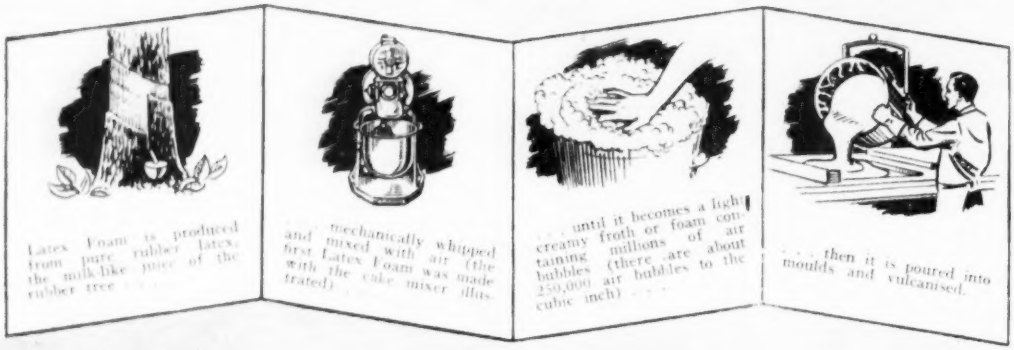

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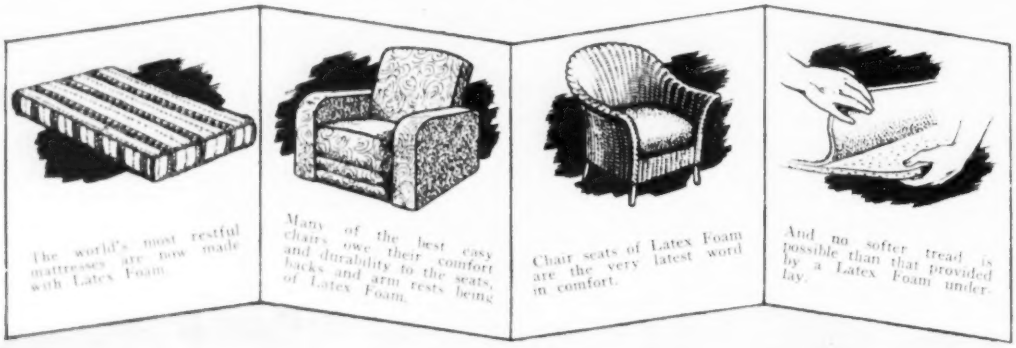

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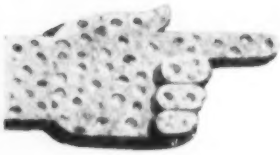

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October 27, 1950

Hessian Shortage Hits Bedding

FOOD TRADE GETS PRIORITY FOR BAGGING

Spring Interior Output Cut

THE BEDDING INDUSTRY IS FACING A SEVERE CURTAILMENT OF PRODUCTION BECAUSE OF THE SHORTAGE OF HESSIAN. SO GREAT IS THE HESSIAN SHORTAGE THAT MANUFACTURE OF SPRING INTERIORS WILL BE DRASTICALLY REDUCED, AND THERE IS NO IMMEDIATE HOPE OF THE POSITION GETTING ANY BETTER.

This was revealed to a "Furnishing World" reporter in an exclusive interview this week with Mr. Frank Ramsey, secretary of the National Bedding Federation.

MR. RAMSEY pointed out that 54 in., 60 in. and 72 in. hessian, which is "the life blood of the industry," is now unobtainable as it is all being diverted to the food trade for the bagging of oats, wheat and so on. This is the first priority.

The padding makers are, therefore, forced to take 45 in. and 40 in. hessian. Apart from the inconvenience and the loss in making padding, the makers are also being penalised on price. All of them have enough certificates to buy five bale lots but they are only receiving one or two bales which are being charged at proportionately higher prices.

Padding Makers' Quandary

"It must be stressed," said Mr. Ramsey, "that the lack of hessian is in no way due to the padding makers. They are loyally trying to carry out their obligations and to share out what is available in the most equitable fashion."

The Bedding Federation are at the moment negotiating with the Board of Trade to allow the use of substitutes but until these negotiations are complete nothing can be said.

Jute Control says that the shortage of hessian is due to internal differences between India and Pakistan, but "Furnishing World" understands that other countries among which is the United States, have been, and are buying hessian from India.

The Bedding Federation are also negotiating with the Board of Trade for increased prices and hope to have something to report very soon, but it is the B.o.T. who hold the initiative in this matter.

During the last few months, almost every component used in the

(*Continued over page*)

Mr. Frank Ramsey.

DEATH AT 74 OF ROBERT HALL

WE regret to report the death of Mr. Robert Hall, governing director of R. Hall & Son (Upholsterers), Ltd., Avenue Works, Manbey Road, Stratford, London, E.15. Mr. Hall, who died after a short illness of about a month, was 74.

The business was founded by his father in the Hackney Road area, and when Mr. Hall took it over he developed the business considerably. There is still a branch at 158, Hackney Road.

Mr. Hall's eldest son, Mr. John Hall, is managing director of the firm. He is chairman of the Upholstery Committee of the L.F.M., is on the B.F.M. Council and on some of the B.F.M. Committees. His sister, Miss Charlotte Hall, is a director of the firm which will continue under the same direction.

Add 2 New Kitchen Tables to U-Range, NARF asks B.o.T

THE National Association of Retail Furnishers have asked the Board of Trade to add two models of kitchen tables to the Utility range.

The first table is a reproduction of the old model No. 2 which is 42 in. x 24 in.

The second table is the old "Pembroke" model. This consists of a centre portion 3 ft. x 1 ft. 6 in. with two drop leaves. This type of table is particularly needed in industrial areas by families living in small houses.

N.A.R.F. have pointed out that the present Utility range includes only two types of kitchen table, a large one of 10 square feet and a small one of 5¼ square feet, and there is a big demand for an intermediate size.

Wycombe's Concern Over Big Increase in Costs

("World" Wycombe Reporter)

RENEWED representations are being made on behalf of manufacturers in the High Wycombe area for price adjustments in the Utility furniture ranges to meet rising costs of raw materials.

GRAVE concern has been expressed about the effects of continued advances in the cost of many materials used in furniture production, particularly upholstery.

Latest increase is in upholstery fillings used largely by Wycombe manufacturers—and announcement of the increase has been accompanied by an intimation that the new price is only an intermediate figure and that a further advance must inevitably be expected in the near future.

Prices are affected by the world demand and rising price of wool and other commodities.

Concern is also being expressed among furniture manufacturers about the stability of supplies of upholstery coverings and the shortage of specified widths of hessian needed for upholstery manufacture. High wastage involved in the use of alternative widths of hessian is adding to production costs.

Price increases within a few days added something like 10s. to the cost of production of a popular type of chair, manfacturers were complaining this week.

After the recession in trade caused by the cessation of buying by many of the big retail houses a month or so ago, and by other factors, orders have been flowing into Wycombe factories again during the last few weeks and most firms are back to capacity production.

Some firms, indeed, have enough work on hand to keep them busy for many months ahead.

Once again the problem is not work but workers and skilled craftsmen in many branches of the industry are again at a premium.

Furniture Wholesalers Ask Development Council for Recognition

A DEPUTATION made up of committee members of the Wholesale Furniture Traders' Associations recently went to see Sir David Waley, chairman of the Furniture Development Council, and put a case forward for provision to be made in the price control order for furniture wholesalers when a manufacturer may find it expedient or economic to employ one.

This meeting with the Furniture Development Council was convened as a result of the latest wholesalers' claim for recognition.

Since deputations of the federation to the Board of Trade last November and in the spring of 1949 and subsequent correspondence on the same subject, the Board of Trade have now referred to the Furniture Development Council for their opinion on the whole matter.

All associations and the Federation of Wholesale Furniture Traders' Associations will continue to press the Board of Trade, who should soon be in a position to consider the Furniture Development Council's recommendations.

Productivity Team Still Open

THE B.F.M. is still open to receive names of those who wish to be considered as members of a Productivity Team to the U.S. in 1951. The team will consist of 15 members.

Several names have already been received and a selection committee has been set up. This committee consists of the officers of the B.F.M. together with Mr. V. M. Radford, Mr. P. J. Birch, Mr. Brooke Adie and Mr. J. Hall.

A preliminary meeting of the committee was held on Tuesday afternoon with the object of finding out exactly what is required, possible dates and an outline of the tour.

In addition to the committee members, Mr. A. G. Tomkins, general secretary of N.U.F.T.O., Mr. P. W. Brind and an American member of the Anglo-U.S. Council were present.

Fire Destroys Cabinet Works

THE factory of the Irish Cabinet Manufacturing Company, Ltd., at Meetinghouse Lane, Dublin, was destroyed by fire last week.

Fifty people were rendered unemployed as a result of the fire.

The fire occurred at a time when the firm were about to move to new premises in Terenure, Dublin.

How Bedding Costs Have Rocketed

(from previous page)

manufacture of bedding has increased in price. Here are some examples:

Cotton felt has advanced to 1s. 11d. a pound from 1s. 5¼d. owing to the rise in the price of raw cotton; the trade cannot possibly contain such an increase and some curtailment of production is inevitable. Flock prices have advanced and mill-puff has gone up; woollen felt has gone up to 1s. 7½d. a pound from 1s. 4d.; ticking has been increased by five per cent *and other advances are on the way.*

Hair prices are also likely to go up. "We are now feeling some of the effects of devaluation," Mr. Ramsey said. "We were told that the only result would be ½d. on a loaf of bread, but we are now seeing differently."

In addition to all this the shortage of the better grades of ticking which has been felt for some time, is not likely to improve.

RETAIL MARGIN CAN STAND NO CUT AT ALL

'Ware Rising Prices, Says R. G. Weekes

A WARNING about rising prices—the retailer received no benefit from them, in fact, his present margin would stand no cut at all—was given by Mr. R. Graham Weekes, M.B.E., chairman of the National Association of Retail Furnishers, to the Southern Area's annual meeting at Southampton last week.

"WE have got to play our part in seeing quality is kept up because we do know that, when prices tend to rise, there is often a dilution of quality," Mr. Weekes said.

That fall in quality had to be avoided and retailers had to play their part in avoiding it.

Since August trade had definitely improved but, to his mind, it was an artificial situation, caused by such things as war scares and talks of shortages.

Prices were rising and people outside the trade began to think the retailer was "doing very well."

But the retailer had to run all the risks of stocking goods when prices were rising. And, bitter experience in the past had shown that, the higher prices rose, the greater they could fall.

To-day there was absolutely no margin of profit for the retailer that could be cut.

"On one hand we are told to raise the status of the trade and do all we can to push new design. On the other hand they tend to cut our margins," pointed out Mr. Weekes.

"We can't be expected to take risks without having a margin to play with.

"I do issue this warning because it has happened in the past and is so easy to be repeated. We have to make up our minds as retailers where this is going to stop. The only way of stopping it is to speak with one voice.

"We have nothing to spare in our margins to-day. Who gets the benefit if prices go up? The Chancellor of the Exchequer, because up goes purchase tax.

"We don't get the benefit. Wages take the rest. I think it is our duty as far as we can to keep prices down and we can only do that by being restrained in our buying."

The retailer, the last link in the chain between manufacturer and buyer, had a duty to the public.

Certain classes of merchandise may be in short supply, Mr. Weekes explained. It was the retailer's duty to ensure "fair shares."

"If retailers do that there is no need for a Government department to think about rationing," he added.

"I am sure, if things got short, all the best retailers would do that—it is the best way of rationing. We, who know our public, are the best people to carry it out."

Several members, afterwards, complained about the quality of silvering in the mirrors of Utility furniture.

They all agreed replacements had been obtained but it was a tedious process and the wait was annoying for the customer. Secretary Mr. Edwards promised to investigate.

Branches in Main Towns?

The meeting passed one resolution, proposed by Mr. S. Flint:—

"The aim in the Southern Area is to break down sub-areas into main towns in the area and to have, in those towns, live branches. Such branches would have their own chairman who would attend area council meetings with full powers."

Officers elected were: chairman and vice-chairman, Mr. F. J. Bickle (J. J. Allan) and Mr. C. H. Michele (Maypoles), Bournemouth; hon. secretary, Mr. S. Flint (Edwin Jones, Ltd.), Southampton; hon. treasurer, Mr. S. G. Clack, Southampton.

Mr. R. G. Weekes.

B.F.M. Approves Export Group

THE B.F.M. Council, at its meeting last week, approved the Export Sub-Committee's recommendation that an Export Group be formed of those members of Constituent Associations with the B.F.M. who wish to export to the U.S. and Canada.

Approaches are now being made by the sub-committee to the Export Credits Guarantee Department and to the Furniture Development Council for financial assistance.

With Hudsons for 40 Years

WE regret to report the death of Mr. R. Potts, who had been with W. A. Hudson, Ltd., of Curtain Road, London, for more than 40 years.

NEW DATE FOR NORTHERN EXHIBITION?

AT their meeting last week, the General Council of the B.F.M. received from the directors of B.F.M. Exhibitions, Ltd., a report on their enquiries as to the probable support forthcoming for a Northern Exhibition to be held at the same time as the 1951 Earls Court Exhibition. Provisional estimates of space required by members of B.F.M. Constituent Associations had been received for a total of approximately 22,000 sq. feet, but no exhibition hall had been found to be available during the required period.

It was reported, however, that the Olympia Hall, Winter Gardens, Blackpool, was understood to be available immediately after the Earls Court Exhibition, and General Council approved the holding of an exhibition there within the period February 23 to March 10, 1951, if the directors of the Exhibitions Company found this to be a practical proposition.

A communication from B.F.M. Exhibitions, Ltd., is being sent to all members through their Associations and those who wish to take part are urged to send in their replies without delay so as to ensure the successful organisation of the Exhibition in the time available.

West of England A.M.U. Recommends—

Master Upholsterers Should Have Own Quality Label

To Compete With Larger Firms

ENVISAGING the possibility of compulsory marking of makers' names on furniture, the West of England branch of the Association of Master Upholsterers, meeting recently in Bristol, passed a resolution requesting the Council to consider the issuing by the A.M.U. of a suitable label.

THE idea was suggested by Mr. P. H. Simpkins, secretary, who suggested that the label might state: "Manufactured by a Member Firm of the Association of Master Upholsterers." Suitable space could be given on the label for the overprinting of the individual member's name, added Mr. Simpkins.

Big Help to Small Maker

Giving his reasons for the suggestion, Mr. Simpkins said that the small man was, obviously, not so well known to the public, and a label bearing the inscription and title of the Association would help the maker with limited capacity to overcome the handicap. Mr. W. E. Kift, chairman, put the view to members, that the idea was full of possibilities. If compulsory marking of furniture with makers' names came into force, it might be difficult for the small man to compete against the large-scale manufacturers, who could afford to place their names before the public by means of intensive advertising.

One member had doubts about the idea, and said a maker should have sufficient faith in the quality of his work not to want to cash in on the prestige of others.

Mr. E. A. Winter expressed the opinion that already there were too many names and labels on furniture. He added the caution that the strength of the Association's name was, in any case, subject to the limitation of the weakest maker among its membership.

Agreement with the principle behind the secretary's idea was voiced by Mr. R. R. St. Claire. There was no compulsion on individual members using the labels if the National Council decided to issue them, he said. If a member wished to stand on the strength of his own name, he could still do so even though other members might decide to accept the labels. The chairman asked members to consider the likelihood of the scheme being extended to include repairs.

Discussion on the publication of a composite advertisement in a recent issue of the "Bristol Evening Post," revealed that one member had already received an order valued at £20 as a direct result of the advertisement.

Others who had participated said that they had enquiries which were traceable to the advertisement.

The secretary said all the Bristol members of the branch had joined in the collective advertising scheme. Members outside the city were keen to undertake similar publicity in the newspapers in their areas.

It was decided to suggest to members that the advertisement be inserted monthly for some time. Mr. Simpkins said that the cost to the participants would be in the region of ten shillings each every month.

Mr. W. Ewart Kift, National President of the A.M.U.

This amount would be reduced if more members joined the scheme.

There was the possibility of sub-branches of the A.M.U. being formed in the West Country, and this interest had probably been aroused by reports in the *Furnishing World*, said the chairman.

Arrangements for the first annual dinner, to be held in Bristol in November, were well in hand, Mr. Simpkins reported. Guests were being invited, and would include the general secretary, Mr. H. Francis Vaughan, Mr. Berwick of the B.o.T. and Mr. Beeby, secretary, Home Counties.

P.T. and Lower Spending Power Force Upholstery Repairers Out of Business

"PURCHASE Tax and reduced spending power on the part of the public have taken their toll. A number of repairers have been forced out of business, and the maker of high grade upholstery has seen his staff still further reduced. The exorbitantly high piecework rates obtaining in factories engaged in the manufacture of Utility upholstery have tempted craftsmen to leave their proper sphere of activity," says the report of the Association of Master Upholsterers which will be presented to the annual general meeting in London on Monday.

The report notes that there is some misunderstanding with regard to the Association's title and says:

"There are those who regard this Association as an organisation of working masters. It is true we have, and are proud to have the support of many small firms and even of self-employed men, but membership is not restricted to them.

"In considering applications, your Council has taken no account whatsoever of the size of the firm seeking admission to our ranks; quality of workmanship has been the sole criterion."

The report stresses the injustice of the continued imposition of Purchase Tax both in non-U. upholstery and on covering materials for repair work, and goes on to say:

"Broadly speaking, those who have their furniture re-upholstered are those whose means do not permit them to buy new articles. Yet it is precisely they who are called upon to pay Purchase Tax.

"There is an even more anomalistic aspect of this matter. The public, having bought new upholstered settees and chairs tax free, is obliged to pay Purchase Tax on those articles when repairs are needed."

Lamertons, Ealing, Open New Soft Furnishings and Floorcovering Departments

All Furnishing Departments Now Under One Roof

ALL the furnishing departments of E. Pretty & Co., Ltd., furnishers and drapers, of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, have been grouped together, and are now housed under one roof in The Traverse, immediately behind the main store in the Butter Market.

Mr. C. E. Carr, manager of the departments and buyer for the past 20 years, told a *Furnishing World* reporter that it had been necessary to demolish their arcade to make room for the new furnishing and soft furnishing departments that now occupied the whole ground floor of The Traverse premises.

Practically no alteration had had to be made to the first and second floors which had been used for some years as furniture stockrooms, but considerable labour had been spent on the basement to transform it into a modern, well-lit carpet and lino department.

He felt the new arrangement had greatly simplified the running of the business.

This was borne out by Mr. H. B. Hooks, who has been general manager since the end of 1949, when Pretty's was taken over by the Debenham Group, following the retirement from business of the sole director, Mr. Cyril Norton.

Richard Bondy, Ltd.

LAST week we reported that the firm of Richard Bondy, Ltd., had changed its name to Benka Investments, Ltd.

We are now informed that the position is that Richard Bondy, Ltd., ceased trading on September 30 on its change of name to Benka Investments Limited, but that a new company, Richard Bondy, Ltd., was formed on October 1, and the new company continues trading in exactly the same way as the former company with the same board of directors, and with the same objects in view.

The change of name and so on is purely a matter of domestic reorganisation.

AN extensive new floorcoverings department was opened this week by L. C. Lamerton, Ltd., furnishers High Street, Ealing, W.5.

This greatly enlarged section of the business continues under the control of Mr. G. W. Phillips, manager and buyer, and now has a window frontage of 40 feet, occupying the premises at 29 and 30, High Street.

Another development by this firm has been the opening of a modern-fronted soft furnishings and linen department. The windows have been specially constructed to command attention, and the facia designed to link-up with the remaining 250 ft. frontage to the firm's premises.

Speaking to a *Furnishing World* reporter, Mr. H. S. Sparham, soft furnishings manager and buyer, said: "We are experiencing a marked increase in trade and making full use of our showroom. Plans are afoot to expand the linen side still more."

Mr. L. C. Lamerton.

Mr. H. S. Sparham.

Interior of this section comprises a well-planned front showroom leading to two sales floors. Latest type of ceiling suspension gas heating has been fitted. Colour matching lights have been installed for window and departmental use.

Mr. L. C. Lamerton, governing director, told *World* reporter that the policy of the firm is one of continual improvement and expansion. The business has made a progressive step each year since its establishment in 1916.

The new soft furnishings department of Lamertons.

PURCHASE TAX ON MADE-UP CURTAINS

THE Commissioners of Customs and Excise do not require Purchase Tax to be paid on made-up curtains, providing that any tax to which the material was liable was duly paid either on purchase of the material or on its appropriation to the making-up department.

It is assumed in all cases that the work of making-up the curtain material is merely incidental to the retail sale of the goods.

Viewpoint

WHAT is the real reason for the big increase in activity in the furniture trade? For without doubt the "trade recession" of a few months ago has vanished as quickly as it appeared, and factories all over the country report an inrush of business which, frankly, they cannot explain.

★★ One of the reasons is probably the unsettled international situation. Wars and rumours of wars have a very definite effect on the public buying, and we believe that a form of fatalism has set in. Some people are undoubtedly saying: "If there's going to be another World War, let's spend some money on what we want while we can." Others, thinking a little more deeply, are saying "The next Budget will be fierce. We have got to pay for rearmament. There will be more taxation, direct or indirect. So let us buy while we have a little money left . . . and before shortages set in."

It is this last factor, the fear of shortages if materials become scarcer and if manufacturers are turned over to making war stores and equipment, that may have some reflection in the larger stocks which many retailers are undoubtedly taking in.

★★ But none of these factors provides any real cause for complacency. It is our feeling that much of the furniture that is being ordered by the public to-day is being bought out of capital. And that sort of buying may not last long. It is not economic, nor does it show any stability in the market.

Frankly, the public has not got more money to spend than it had three months ago. Nor are more houses suddenly springing up. The new influx of business must therefore be largely for refurnishing, and the demand must come chiefly from people who, as we have said, are thinking in terms of higher taxation and shortages of goods, and are willing to sink some of their diminishing capital in furniture.

★★ For this reason we do not necessarily forecast another sudden "trade recession" similar to that which hit the industry a few months ago. But we do feel it wise to issue a warning on the present situation, and to suggest that the new buying rush—for that is what it amounts to in some districts—is not a sure barometer of the future. In other words, to plan ahead on the basis of the present level of business would be unwise . . . although a *steady* development, founded on careful thought on the likelihood of future trends, should be encouraged.

Readers' Viewpoint

Payment of Furnishers' Transport Workers

The Editor,
"Furnishing World"

SIR,—It is noted that on page 42 of *Furnishing World* dated September 29, 1950, a statement appears to the effect that the rates prescribed in the Retail Furnishing and Allied Trades Wages Regulation Order R.F.A.(6) for transport workers apply irrespective of whether the vehicle is operated under an "A," "B" or "C" licence.

In this connection it is desired to draw your attention to paragraph 13(2)(i) of the Order R.F.A.(6), from which you will see that the Order does not apply to workers in relation to whom the Road Haulage Wages Council operates in respect of any employment which is within the field of operation of that Council. Drivers of "A" and "B" class vehicles will accordingly continue to be covered by the Orders made by the Road Haulage Wages Council, and will not be affected by the Order R.F.A.(6).

Yours, etc.,
D. RAWLINSON,
for Chief Wages Inspector.
Ministry of Labour &
National Service,
London, S.W.1.

Furnishers at Retail Design Course

THE second residential course held this year by the Council of Industrial Design, for the benefit of furniture buyers and salesmen, ended at Attingham Park, Nr. Shrewsbury, yesterday.

The course, which lasted from Monday until Thursday, was attended by representatives from thirty of the largest furnishers in Britain.

Students were welcomed by Mr. Michael Rix, M.A., local studies tutor of Attingham Park, an interesting Georgian house which was bequeathed to the National Trust by the eighth Lord Berwick and now houses the Shropshire Adult College. Later, the students were given a talk by Mr. Paul Reilly, chief information officer of the C.O.I.D., on "The Work of the Council of Industrial Design and the Object of the Course."

Students were divided up into groups and after each talk the groups met to discuss the subject and to formulate questions which were later put to the lecturers.

During the course they heard lectures from Mr. Gordon Russell, "The History of Furniture Design"; Mr. A. Gregory, "Making Furniture by Hand"; Commander David Joel, R.N., "The Selection and Use of Timber"; Mr. David Pye, "Making Furniture by Machine"; Mr. Frank Martin, "Upholstered Furniture—Methods of Manufacture"; Mr. Antony Hunt, editor of "House and Garden" and Mr. Geoffrey Dunn.

A full report of the lectures will appear in *Furnishing World* next week.

Unemployment Halved

IN the House of Commons last week, Wing Commander Bullus asked the Minister of Labour what was the number of unemployed in the furniture industry at the latest available date.

Mr. Isaacs: At September 11, the figures were 1,711 males and 348 females.

Wing Commander Bullus: Could the Minister give comparative figures at some convenient date—six months or 12 months ago?

Mr. Isaacs: The figures are less than half what they were in June.

personally speaking...

NEWS OF MEN YOU KNOW

I HEAR from **E. A. Gaynor,** of Powell & Gaynor, the Carlisle furnishers and carpet specialists, that during their recent visit to Carlisle, Their Highnesses Princess Hadiga Halim and Princess Zeineb Halim, visited the firm's premises and purchased carpets for their residence in Helwan, Egypt.

☆ ☆

IN his younger days one of the leading amateur golfers in the Midlands, **Douglas D. E. Clayton,** chairman of W. J. Clayton, Ltd., the Birmingham timber firm of Curzon Street, has died at his home, Withens, Barker Road, Sutton Coldfield, aged 77. Mr. Clayton was a life member of the Castle Bromwich Club and was also a member of the Walmley and Sutton Coldfield Golf Clubs, the latter of which is this year captained by his eldest son, **D. Beavon Clayton,** managing director of W. J. Clayton, Ltd.

☆ ☆

DAYS when carpets could be bought at 3s. 6d. a yard were recalled recently at James Howell & Co., Ltd., Cardiff, by their head carpet fitter and planner **R. H. Gillard.** The occasion was a presentation made him by the chairman of the board of directors, **John Powell,** in appreciation of his fifty years' service with the firm. Mr. Gillard, who will be continuing his work, joined the company from Birmingham.

☆ ☆

A NOTE from Jarman & Platt, Ltd., tells me that they have appointed **Bernard Sutcliffe** to carry on their Yorkshire agency

☆ ☆

A NOTE from **W. H. Pretty,** who for many years has been manager of the Croydon branch of the Times Furnishing Company, tells me that he has resigned after having been with the company for 14 years. It will be remembered that Mr. Pretty, just 12 months ago, had the honour of planning and completely re-furnishing the new mess of the Grenadier Guards at Chelsea Barracks, of which Princess Elizabeth spoke so highly. For this work, Mr. Pretty was made an honorary member of the Mess.

☆ ☆

THE General Council of the B.F.M. has elected **Charles A. Lakin, M.B.E.,** of Birmingham, to be chairman of its Domestic Committee.

☆ ☆

ANOTHER B.F.M. appointment is that of **A. A. Farmer** (Modern Upholstery, Bristol) to the board of B.F.M. Exhibitions, Ltd. This appointment fills the vacancy left by **Brigadier A. L. W. Newth** who had to retire because of ill-health. Mr. Farmer is president of the West of England and South Wales Furniture Manufacturers' Association.

☆ ☆

I HEAR that **T. Toward,** export and advertising manager for Sobell Industries, Ltd., has now left the company and these departments will in future be under the direct control of **A. B. Singer,** general sales manager.

☆ ☆

AN illuminated address of thanks for the good work he had done for the Society was presented to **E. C. B. Rowley,** managing director of Harrisons (Birmingham), Ltd., at the Royal Metal Trades' Pension and Benevolent Society's 13th Annual Ball which was held in Birmingham last week. Mr. Rowley is chairman of the Midland Area Council.

☆ ☆

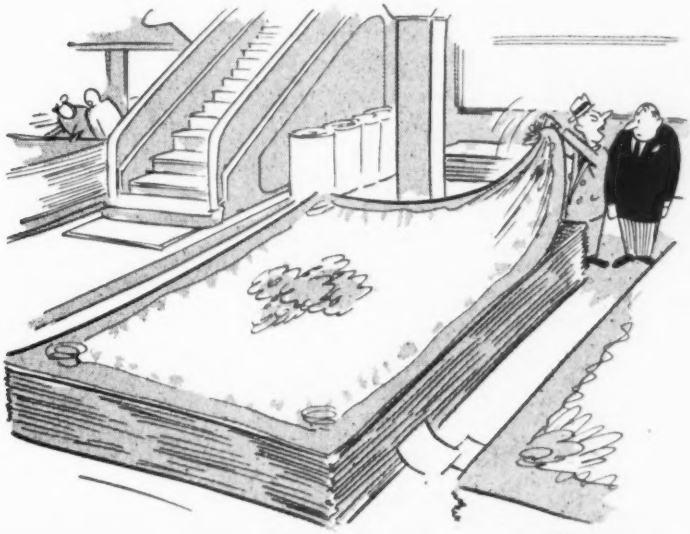
I GATHER that **R. S. Wybrow** of Beatall Furniture, Ltd., is annoyed—and justifiably so. It appears that the London Tramatorium has been set up right outside his finishing shop. For the uninitiated, the Tramatorium is the funeral pyre of London's discarded tram-cars. We can well understand Mr. Wybrow saying: "Why pick on me? And did it *have* to be outside the *finishing* shop?"

☆ ☆

STROUDE'S, of Rake Lane and Magazine Lane, Wallasey, have acquired the soft furnishing and drapery business of T. Evans and Sons, Ltd., Capitol Buildings, Liscard, Wallasey. **J. H. Lovegrove** is manager of the new branch. Proprietor of Stroude's is **Councillor B. T. Stroude,** whose father established the business in 1891. The business of T. Evans and Sons, Ltd., was founded in 1870.

Nomad

A Smile with Betts



"Mind if I take it outside to see the colour in the daylight?"

At the Midland Ideal Homes

THIS PICTURE shows the "Golden Key" furniture displayed by Beehive Warehouse of Birmingham on their stand at the Midlands Ideal Home Exhibition.

Better Housekeeping Show Features Good Furniture, Furnishings

FURNITURE, furnishing fabrics, television and radio sets, and electric washing machines, are among the exhibits at the "Evening Chronicle" Better Housekeeping Exhibition, organised by Provincial Exhibitions, Ltd., and held at the City Hall, Deansgate, Manchester, from October 17-28.

Ashleys Fabrics, of Stretford, featured a display of furnishing fabrics in the latest designs, weaves and colourings, while Arderns of Oldham, Ltd., made a special show of "Duplex" (both sides exactly alike) printed materials.

Displaying a comprehensive selection of modern furniture, J. Boardmans, Ltd., of Leigh, included the new "Unit" walnut bedroom suite and the latest design dining suites.

Thomas French & Sons, Ltd., of Manchester, featured "Rufflette" brand four-way reversible curtain tape with woven pockets into which fit the "Rufflette" brand hooks and rings without stitching.

Popular exhibitors at these exhibitions are W. Fryer & Sons, Ltd., of Eccles; Babyfair, of Manchester; Byroms of Altrincham, Ltd.; H. & L. Epstein, Ltd., of Manchester, and Phillips Furnishing Stores, Ltd., of Manchester, and once again these firms presented stands with much that was new and interesting to visiting housewives and would-be housewives.

For those looking for a luxury home on wheels the West Lancashire Cabinet Co., Ltd., of Ince, Wigan, supplied the answer with their 22-ft. long Tudor-Davies caravan, made of aluminium alloy with an insulation of isoflex and panelled with bird's eye maple.

All the furniture is in bird's eye maple, and in addition to two spacious wardrobes a sideboard incorporates a cocktail cabinet. Loose covers are fitted to the settees, with curtains and fitted carpets admirably blended.

Longland & Braithwaite, Ltd., were showing English Rose kitchen furniture, and a nest of drawers on wheels which fitted into a unit for use in holding cutlery attracted a great deal of attention.

H. J. Searle & Sons, Ltd., of London, displayed their new 1951 Berkeley Superlax, with a new "billowed" back affording the utmost comfort to shoulders, back and head, while The Times Furnishing Co., Ltd., of Manchester, featured the Cintique luxury lounge chairs.

Other exhibitors included Hilton Products (Harold Hilton [Mossley], Ltd.).

Craft Furniture in Manchester Show

THE twenty-sixth autumn exhibition of the Red Rose Guild of Craftsmen, which was held at the Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester, focused attention upon the skill of the craftsman by displaying textiles, rugs, pottery, furniture and woodwork, silver and wrought iron work, jewellery, bookbinding, calligraphy and wood engraving.

Craftsmen and craftswomen from all parts of the country displayed the products of their skill, and while expensive items took the eye there were comparatively inexpensive articles which also reflected the craftsmanship of those who work by hand in a machine age.

A wardrobe in oiled chestnut could be repeated at £125, and a walnut bureau with Lebanon cedar interior was priced at the same figure, yet the visitor could buy nine book ends in English walnut for £2 19s. 6d. or a cigarette box, in walnut, for £3.

Not for sale were a memorial table—in English oak—for Manchester High School for Girls, an Ulverston Grammar School platform chair in oak, and a dining-room chair in English walnut.

A brood of tables in sapele was priced at £48, a bookcase in Spanish mahogany, with sliding plate-glass doors, at £70, and a dressing table in English oak at £17 18s. 6d.

Couch covers, furnishing fabrics, table cloths, a linen and mohair rug were on offer in the handloom weaving, rugs and hand-printed textiles section.

Carpet Wholesalers Meet

MR. C. S. ANTON (The Victoria Carpet Co., Ltd.) was the guest speaker at a recent luncheon meeting of members of the Wholesale Floor-covering Distributors' Association, north-western branch.

The chairman, Mr. Bernard Keggan (A. W. Keggan and Sons, Ltd.), said there was a record attendance of members and guests who included manufacturers' representatives.

Mr. Anton, a leading member and office holder in the Federation of British Carpet Manufacturers, explained the functions of the Federation and emphasised the unity of purpose among its members.

Back from Australia and U.S. with £100,000 Orders, sales director tells "Furnishing World"

Big Demand is Tailor-Made and Fitted Furnishings

FITTED household furnishings are enjoying a wave of popularity in Australia and America, according to Mr. L. E. Watson, sales director of J. Pattison & Co., Ltd., manufacturers of household textiles, of Manchester, who has just returned from a 31,000-mile world trip with orders and inquiries for more than £100,000 worth of tablecloths, towels, bedspreads and other household goods.

"Housewives in these countries are insisting on tailor-made bedspreads which touch the ground," Mr. Watson told a *Furnishing World* reporter. "They like their windows, ottomans, chairs and dressing tables draped with the same cloth.

"Suppliers are carrying big stocks of these fitted ensembles. Customers go to household specialists who measure up and supply these tailor-made furnishings."

Mr. Watson believes there is a tremendous trade to be done in the seer-sucker type of cloth, which does not need ironing, and is reaching Australia from many European countries.

"It is very colourful and Australian housewives love colour in the home," he pointed out. "Seer-sucker cloth is a thing of the future for household goods."

Emphasising the Australian's passion for colour, Mr. Watson explained that even the plain tea towel would lie on the shelves over there where housewives preferred to wash up with a towel carrying colourful designs.

"Australia, with its growing population and big purchasing power, is still a wonderful market for Lancashire textiles, but there has been a big development of their own textile mills during recent years," Mr. Watson warned.

"Lancashire will have to be on her toes with bright and original textile designs of first-class quality to retain her hold on the Australian market, which has its eye on colour all the time.

"It is most desirable that Australian buyers should be contacted on the spot."

Soft Furnisher Retires

THE business of Alfred Ashby, soft furnishers and linen specialists, 67, High Street, Camberley, Surrey, has been acquired by Mr. Neil Blackburn.

Mr. A. Ashby has retired after 57 years' successful trading.

DEATH OF JOHN DAY, NORWOOD

MR. JOHN DAY, J.P., managing director of H. Day & Sons, Ltd., the Norwood, London, furnishers, has died in King's College Hospital.

Mr. Day was Jubilee Year president of the National Association of Furniture Warehousemen and was less than half way through his year of office.

Founder of Northants Cabinetmakers

THE death has taken place in Northampton General Hospital, of Mr. Percy C. Major, of Duston, Northants, the founder some 14 years years ago of Delapre Components, Ltd., cabinet makers, 3, St. Giles Street, Northampton.

Mr. Major retired last year and had been in hospital for about two months following an accident.

For a number of years he was a director of Smith, Major and Stevens Ltd., Northampton, and continued as a director when the firm was incorporated in 1930 with the Express Lift Co., Ltd. He resigned in 1936 to found Delapre Components, Ltd.

Tenders Recommended

Manchester Health Committee has recommended the acceptance of tenders of Hoskins & Sewell, Ltd., of Birmingham, and R. W. Whittle, Ltd., of Eccles, for tables and chairs required at day nurseries.

New furnishing store in N. London

A NEW furnishing and upholstery business has been opened at 208, Belsize Road, Kilburn, N.W.6, under the joint proprietorship of Mr. M. V. Brenner and Mr. A. G. Suskin, trading as Esbee Furniture.

Premises of this new concern comprise a shop and showroom with workroom at the back.

Speaking to a *Furnishing World* reporter, Mr. Brenner, who has spent 16 years in the trade, said: "We are planning to extend in the near future and to acquire additional premises when we shall open a department for trade upholstery work. There is a good demand here for furniture repairs. We shall begin production of loose covers within a few weeks."

The cricket match between High Wycombe and Hounslow in aid of the F.T.B.A. realised more than £50.

Development at Ealing Furnishers

BUSINESS is being reorganised at the premises of John Webb & Co. (Furnishers), Ltd., 13-14, The Mall, Ealing, W.5, where a new 40 ft. frontage is being installed.

Interviewed by a *Furnishing World* reporter, Mr. H. Cymbalist, managing director and buyer, who has spent 20 years in the trade, said: "We have considerably increased our turnover during the past year, and we are confident that the new windows will do much to promote business.

Mr. J. Shifrin, a director, told the *World* reporter that the new windows will be equipped with 14 spot-lights, and neon lighting is to be installed on the facia. The 4,000 sq. ft. of showroom space is to be redecorated.

The business was established in 1930 by Mr. M. Shifrin at 199, The Broadway, Southall. The present company have a third store at 1342, Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex.

Other directors are Mr. S. Lee and Mr. A. Feldman.

Mr. H. Cymbalist. Mr. J. Shrifrin.

("Furnishing World" pictures)

Machine that Stretches and Lays Carpets

A new machine for stretching and laying fitted carpets with ease and speed is now being produced by Baynell, Ltd., Reliance Works, Brick-kiln Street, Wolverhampton, Staffordshire.

The machine is known as the "Stretchamatic" and the makers claim that it is easily adjustable to any size of carpet. The gripping head can be adjusted so that the teeth just penetrate the carpet and do not pierce the underfelt or damage the floor.

The machine is supplied complete with a strong wooden carrying case.

Lewis's, Liverpool, is Now Re-built

LEWIS'S, LTD., Liverpool, have opened the remaining portion of the ground floor and nearly all the lower ground floor in the new section of their store.

Having a façade in Portland stone, the new building has five large display windows in Ranelagh Street and other windows in Fairclough Street.

An entrance at the corner of Ranelagh Street and Fairclough Street, near Central Station, has been put into commission. Window and interior illumination is by fluorescent lighting fittings.

Lewis's building was partially destroyed by bombs in 1941. The original building provided for about 500,000 square feet of selling space. By using office accommodation it was possible to reopen the store for trading within a month of its destruction, but only with 72,000 square feet. Additional areas have since been added.

Early in 1947, Lewis's were granted a licence from the Ministry of Works to restore their Liverpool store, at a total cost of £1,200,000.

More Space for Lino, Carpets

M. Crook, furnishers, 53-57, Church Street, Croydon, Surrey, have extended their floorcoverings business and now have 5,000 sq. ft. of showrooms for linos and carpets.

Express Re-make Service

O'Brien & Burroughs, Ltd., furnishers, 1, Marine Court, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex, are conducting a special 8-hour express mattress re-make service.

EST. 1853

THONET

BROS. LTD.

BENTWOOD CHAIRS

TABLES

48, GREAT EASTERN ST., LONDON, E.C.2

Telephone: BISHOPSGATE 7535/6 (2 lines)

Parker-Knoll Man Wins F.T.B.A. Golf Match

IN the first golf competition arranged by High Wycombe area committee of the F.T.B.A., a challenge cup for the best score was won by Mr. W. W. Ayres, of Parker-Knoll, Ltd., with a score of 37½.

Many furniture manufacturers took part in the competition at Flackwell Heath Golf Club, near High Wycombe, and it is hoped now to make the tournament an annual event for the Benevolent Association.

Winners of the morning round competition were: Division I.—A. Folley, 35½ points; runner-up, Max Goodearl, 33 points, Division II.—J. Dracott, 32½ points; runner-up, H. Turnbull, 32 points, after a tie with Fred Bristow.

The afternoon foursomes tournament was won by C. Bamberger and J. Hughes, with a score of 43, with F. W. Smith and W. H. Goodearl as runners-up, after a tie.

Afterwards the prizes were presented by Mr. J. B. Heath, area vice-president and chairman of the High Wycombe committee. Mr. David Birch (William Bird, Ltd.) thanked the Flackwell Heath club for their hospitality and paid tribute to the work of Mr. Heath.

In response, Mr. Heath thanked those who had given prizes for the tournament and voiced the committee's intention to make the competition an annual function.

The tournament was arranged by a committee comprising Mr. J. B. Heath, chairman, Mr. David Birch, Mr. Cecil Hearne, Mr. Max Goodearl and Mr. George Keen.

Furnishers in Midlands Charity Ball

THE great success of the first Birmingham United Charities Appeal annual dance at the Tower Ballroom last year, when £1,200 was distributed equally between the Drapers' Institute and Cottage Homes; Warehousemen, Clerks' and Drapers' Schools; and the Furniture Trades Benevolent Fund, and the many requests received for a similar function this year, has inspired the organisers to go all out to beat last year's result.

This year the dance is to be held on Wednesday, November 22, at the Tower Ballroom, Edgbaston, Birmingham, from 8 p.m. until 1 a.m., and tickets are 5s. each, and may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, United Charities Appeal, c/o Beehive Warehouse, Albert Street, Birmingham, 4.

New Southall Furnishing Store Added

LATEST developments by Greenford Furnishing Company, 78, The Broadway, Greenford, Middlesex, include the opening of a new branch at 20, South Road, Southall.

The new branch, which is being conducted by Mr. N. Berg, co-partner and buyer, has a modern frontage with a 70 ft. by 30 ft showroom. Mr. Berg, who has been in the trade for 15 years, is putting on a fresh window display each week.

In an interview with a *Furnishing World* reporter, Mr. H. Baker, the other partner in the concern, said: "We cater for a medium class trade and are at present reorganising our business before extending the bedding section."

Mr. Baker conducts the buying at the Greenford premises, which were opened in 1946 when the business was established.

Further expansion is contemplated, and a third store is to be opened in the Middlesex area in the near future.

Mr. N. Berg. *Mr. H. Baker.*

Furnishers To Have Arcade, More Showroom Space

DEVELOPMENT plans for their commanding corner-site premises have been revealed to a *Furnishing World* reporter by Perretts' Furniture, Ltd., 504, Greenford Road, Greenford, Middlesex. The scheme involves extension of the firm's present frontage, erection of an arcade and enlargement of the showrooms to provide double the present display area.

Mr. N. W. Perrett, director, told *World* reporter: "We have always made a special feature of bedding, and when our expansion scheme is carried out we shall enlarge this section of our business. Carpet and lino departments will also be extended. We deal in medium quality merchandise."

The company, established in 1945, was the first to open in Greenford after the war, and furnished many of the prefab. dwellings in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Perrett, who served his apprenticeship with Waring & Gillow, Ltd., has completed 25 years in the trade.

Soft Furnisher to Extend

PLANS to extend their newly-opened business are under consideration by Economy Drapers, drapers and soft furnishers, 94, West End Lane, West Hampstead, N.W.6.

Mr. M. Takabsman, co-partner in the concern, told a *Furnishing World* reporter: "We plan to enlarge our present sales floor space by provision of an extension at the rear of the premises. It is our aim to open branch establishments in the future."

The other partner in the business is Mr. S. Miller.

Catalogue of "Television" Furniture

IN our August 11 issue we published a picture and a description of the "Kindred" settee and easy chair for viewing television made by Goodwood Upholstery, 24, Ronald Street, Radford, Nottingham. We are informed that catalogues describing the whole range of the "television" and other furniture made by this firm are now available and copies may be obtained on request.

N. London Firm Adds to Showroom

EXTENSION of showrooms at the rear of their premises is planned by Blooms, furnishers, 181, 187 and 198, Caledonian Road, Islington, N.1.

This latest expansion scheme follows the recent installation of new windows and frontage repairs to their war-damaged property, and complete redecoration of existing showrooms which have been equipped with fluorescent lighting.

In an interview with a *Furnishing World* reporter, Mr. Jack Bloom, general manager and buyer, said: "The business was established at 181, Caledonian Road in 1919 by Mr. Isaac Bloom, principal, who has been in the trade for 40 years and is a member of the local Chamber of Commerce."

Mr. I. Bloom told *World* reporter that although the district was subjected to severe bombing during the war years business was continued as usual. He is confident that trade in this area will return to its pre-war level when the Council's re-housing programme has been completed. It is in view of this local development that this furnishing house is preparing to augment the present showroom space.

Bedding Suppliers Wanted

FIRMS who wish to have their names placed on the official list of approved contractors to supply mattresses, pillows, blankets and matting to various welfare and other establishments throughout Cheshire should apply to Mr. William H. Owen, County Welfare Officer, 9, Bridge Place (Supplies Section), Lower Bridge Street, Chester, not later than October 31.

John Purvis, Ltd., spring manufacturers, Blyth, Northumberland, are seeking permission to erect a new factory at Cowpen.

Stockroom Dates: Guide to the New-Furniture Shows

LONDON & SOUTH

G. & F. FURNITURE PRODUCTS, LTD. Now until December 1, at 38, The Avenue, **London, N.W.6.** Tel.: Willesden 3088. Showing half-round commode in period style, cocktail and wine cabinets, dining sets and display cabinets. Frank Sklan in attendance.

• • •

L. L. COSTER. Now until December 1, at 38, The Avenue, Brondesbury, **London, N.W.6.** Telephone: Willesden 3088. Showing Utility Regency three-piece suite, rexine suite, and so on. Frank Sklan in attendance.

• • •

EASTERN COUNTIES

ENFIELD FURNITURE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD. October 30 to November 4, at Orford Arms Hotel, **Norwich.** C. H. Davies in attendance.

• • •

NORTH

ENFIELD FURNITURE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD. October 30 to November 4, at Priestley Hall, **Leeds.** W. A. Griffiths in attendance.

• • •

NORTH-EAST

H. & A. G. ALEXANDER & CO., LTD. November 6 to 10, at Royal Turk's Head Hotel, **Newcastle-on-Tyne.** Showing fireside chairs and nursery furniture. John A. Lloyd Harris in attendance.

• • •

FREDERICK TIBBENHAM, LTD. October 30 to November 3, at Royal Turk's Head Hotel, **Newcastle-on-Tyne.** Showing tax-free bedroom and dining suites and reproduction furniture.

• • •

SIDNEY BROOKES (FURNITURE), LTD. November 6 to 10, at Royal Turk's Head Hotel, **Newcastle-on-Tyne.** Showing walnut bedroom suites. John A. Lloyd Harris in attendance.

• • •

STONEHILL FURNITURE, LTD. November 6 to 10, at Royal Turk's Head Hotel, **Newcastle-on-Tyne.** Showing oak and walnut dining sets including "Bureaumatic" sideboard. John A. Lloyd Harris in attendance.

"World" Enquiry Bureau

Some Enquiries Answered

6731. Sectional book cases.
*6732. "Vereston" Utility divans with covered headboard.
6735. Address of James Gough, Ltd.
6736. Information about Hire Purchase procedure methods.
6737. Address of Shrager Bros., Ltd.
6738. Address of Palatial Furniture, Ltd.
6739. "Beson" stair clip.
6740. "Gunn" sectional bookcases.
6741. Chair commodes.
6742. Sponge rubber for cushions, seats, etc.
6743. Address of F. Grover, Sons & Co. (Crowbridge), Ltd.
6744. Court cupboard sideboard.
*6745. "Haskolite" laminated board.
6746. Moth-proof mattress pads in white woven material.
6747. Double-decker beds.
6748. China stamped with name of Church for church use.
6749. "Carlton" pottery.
6750. Two enquiries for Ega Electric Co., Ltd.
6751. Address of "Draper's Record."
6752. "Osram" electric bulbs.
6753. Charges for cutting, making, fitting loose covers for three-piece suite.
6754. "Dalex" materials.
6755. Address of Aslin Blind Co., Ltd.
6756. Industrial mobile vacuum cleaner with extension arms.
6757. Sewing table designed by Frank Austin and Neville Ward.
6758. Three-cornered hall wardrobe.

* Means unanswered. Can any reader help?

"Downland" REG.
BEDDING PRODUCTS
are being NATIONALLY ADVERTISED
THOMAS S. SMITH BEDDING CO. LTD., Kirkby Trading Estate, LIVERPOOL.
Spring Interior Mattresses, Feather and Down Pillows 5239B.

Diary Dates

November 2 to 6. Conference for members of the furniture industry at Ripon. Arranged by Furniture Development Council.

November 7. Annual general meeting of Household Textiles Association at Chamber of Commerce, King Street, Manchester, 11.30 a.m.

November 7. Bristol, Weston-super-Mare and District Area F.T.B.A. Annual supper-ball at the Berkeley, Queens Road, Bristol.

November 8. Annual dinner of Birmingham and West Midlands Furniture Manufacturers' Association at Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

November 10. Annual dinner-dance of Northern Furniture Manufacturers' Association at Grand Hotel, Harrogate.

November 14. Seventh annual ball of London Area No. 1 F.T.B.A. at Grosvenor House, London.

November 20. Annual general meeting of F.T.B.A. at 154, Fleet, Street, London.

November 22. Annual dinner of West of England branch of Master Upholsterers' Association at Bristol.

November 22. Annual dance of Hull and District Area F.T.B.A. at Beverley Road Baths, Hull.

November 27. Annual general meeting of Working Masters' Association at Palmerston Restaurant, Bishopsgate, London, E.C.2, 4 p.m.

November 29. Quarterly meeting in Bournemouth of National Association of Retail Furnishers.

November 30. Annual dinner-dance of the Preston, Blackburn and District Area of the F.T.B.A., at the Majestic Hotel, St. Annes-on-Sea.

1951

February 13 to 23. B.E.M. Exhibition at Earls Court, London.

February 15. Annual Festival Dinner and Dance of F.T.B.A. at Dorchester Hotel, London.

February 21. Annual Dinner-Dance of National Bedding Federation at Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London.

All Rag Flock Was Up To Standard

ALL samples of rag flock taken by Health Officers in Liverpool last year were found to be in accordance with the standard of cleanliness required by the rag flock regulations, states the annual report of the Liverpool Medical Officer of Health. There is one factory in the city where rag flock is made; 38 samples were taken from premises where rag flock is used.

CITY NEWS • CITY NEWS • CITY NEWS • CITY NEWS • CITY N

F. Austin Make £27,000 Net

THE development programme which was outlined two years ago by the directors of **F. Austin (Leyton), Ltd.**, is now reaching finality. This was announced by the chairman, Mr. Frank Austin, at their general meeting last week, when he said that this programme, when completed, would assist in the reduction of overhead expenses and should in due course materially improve the liquid position.

The accounts showed a net profit of £27,622, after taxation, compared with £31,678 for the previous year, after making provision for the transfer of a further £5,000 to general reserve, transferring £2,000 to the Preference stock redemption fund and the proposed final dividend on the Ordinary stock, and also the payment of the Preference dividend.

The balance of undistributed profits was increased from £27,218 to £28,975. Retailers, said the chairman, appreciated the vigour and stimulus of their national advertising and had co-operated to mutual advantage.

T. R. Roberts Group Profit Is £36,000

GROUP profit to February 14 for **T. R. Roberts** is £36,102 (£40,445), plus other income, making £36,848 (£42,685, including £1,821 tax provision no longer required).

Net profit £15,185 (£20,549). Preference dividend £2,475 (same), Ordinary dividend 12½ per cent (15 per cent) £5,964 (£7,157), forward, parent company £4,335 (£7,479), and subsidiaries £10,580 (£6,611).

Transvaal Firm's Results

CONSOLIDATED trading profit for **Transvaal Mattress and Furnishing** (incorporated in South Africa) for the year ended June 30 is £78,439 (£86,863). Other income £316 (£2,246) brings this up to £78,755 (£89,109).

To dividend 5½ per cent Preference £8,250 (same), Ordinary dividend 25 per cent £45,000 (same), tax £19,822 (£22,432). Forward £71,800 (£70,338).

The Gazette

THE BANKRUPTCY ACTS 1914 and 1926

BANKRUPTCY PROCEEDINGS

James Webb **Daw**, 66, Percy Road, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, and Herbert William Ernest **Cannon**, 59, Freshfield Road, Brighton, Sussex, formerly carrying on business in partnership as **"Candaw,"** 3, Esplanade, Whitley Bay, furniture dealers, etc. Receiving Order October 10.

Ernest Betram **Collett**, commonly known as Ernest Bertram **Clarke**, trading as **"E. B. Clarke & Company,"** 10, Royal Parade, Church Street, Dagenham, Essex, furniture manufacturer and repairer, etc. First meeting October 26 at 3, Central Buildings, Matthew Parker Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1, and public examination December 14 at the Petty Sessions House, Alexandra Street, Southend.

Albert Alfred George **Dick**, 43, Holland Road Clacton-on-Sea, Essex, lately carrying on business under the name of **"A. G. Dick,"** Station Buildings, Bruce Grove, Tottenham, London, N.17, carpet planner. Receiving Order and Order of Adjudication October 13.

NOTICE OF DIVIDEND

Percy **Day**, residing and lately carrying on business at Spring Gardens, Doncaster, Yorks, furniture dealer. No. 86 of 1929. Further supplemental of 2s. 4½d. and 4 per cent statutory interest in the £, payable at the Official Receiver's Office, 55, Queen Street, Sheffield, 1.

COMPANIES WINDING-UP

The Grafton Furnishing Co., Ltd., Grafton House, 189-191, Roman Road, Bethnal Green, London, E.2.

A detailed statement of affairs under this compulsory liquidation has now been issued by the Official Receiver in the Companies Winding-up Department of the Board of Trade. It shows unsecured liabilities of £13,420, preferential claims £502, and debenture holders' claims £3,800. Estimated total value of assets is £11,801, and after deducting preferential and debenture claims there are net assets of £7,499, a deficiency for creditors of £5,921.

Company was formed in May, 1947, with a nominal capital of £1,000, increased later to £3,000, of which £2,000 was issued.

Leslie H. Williams, a director, says that in June, 1946, he started business on his own as a retail furnisher, and by an agreement dated July 24, 1947, the company acquired his business and assets for £2,633. In 1948, war-time restrictions on furniture design ended, and the directors realised that the company, with its four small shops, would not be able to give its customers a very wide selection of goods; accordingly, they decided to close the existing shops as and when turnover declined, and to take larger premises. By September, 1949, the original shops and office accommodation had been disposed of at premiums of £650, and in the meantime six other leasehold properties had been acquired, of which two were held for a few months only and then disposed of at premiums totalling £1,000. From November, 1949, the company operated at Bethnal Green, Deptford, Islington and Chatham,

(continued over page)

Our Reproduction Range

"Richmond" Bureau (as illustrated).
"Kenilworth" 4' Welsh Dresser Dining set
"Kingsbury" 4' and 3' Bedroom Suites & Steads.
"Warwick" 2' 6" Bureau.
"Stratford" and "Shirley" Bookshelves.
"Falstaff" Bulbous Leg Low Stool.
"Olton" Claw and Ball Low Stool.
"Stonebridge" Nesting Tables.
"Greswold" Occasional Table.
"Cromwell" Table/Stool.

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CITY NEWS + CITY NEWS + CITY NEWS +

COMPANIES' WINDING-UP

(from previous page)

where rents totalling £2,650 a year were payable, exclusive of rates.

According to Williams, until the summer of 1948 cash and hire-purchase sales were about equal, but later hire-purchase sales increased until they far exceeded cash sales, with the result that the company found it necessary to arrange for the hire-purchase sales to be undertaken through finance houses. Efforts were made during 1949 to obtain more capital, but to finance the cost of opening the new shops, in particular those at Deptford and Islington in September and November, 1949, respectively, a temporary bank overdraft was obtained on a third party's guarantee up to £3,000. In December, 1949, the company issued a debenture to the guarantor creating a floating charge on all the company's assets to secure all sums up to £3,000 which he might be called upon to pay.

Audited accounts show that for the year to May, 1948, on sales of £18,045 there was a net loss of £308, and in the following year on sales of £26,091 a net profit of £588. In the next period of trading, to March last, a net loss of £8,378 was incurred on sales of £30,824.

Williams further states that the end of restrictions on the design of furniture in July, 1948, shortly after the company had opened larger premises at Ipswich, rendered obsolete the company's stock of Utility furniture, which had to be sold at considerably reduced prices showing no gross profit. The company did not make price reductions immediately, and it was not until after May, 1949, that the major part of the Utility stocks were cleared.

Two of the directors attribute the company's failure to insufficient working capital to finance: (a) the cost of opening larger premises; (b) the increased scale of the company's business from those premises; and (c) increased hire-purchase sales, which as a result had to be financed by a discount company which retained as a reserve a large proportion of the profit margin; and to freedom of design rendering stock obsolete.

Woburn Cabinet Co., Ltd., Registered Office, 5, Giltspur Street, London, E.C.1.

The Official Receiver in the Companies Winding-up Department of the Board of Trade, has now issued his observations on this company, against which a winding-up order was made in April last.

Statement of affairs shows unsecured liabilities £7,833; preferential claims £553. Assets are estimated to produce £581, and after deducting preferential claims there are net assets of £28, a deficiency as regards creditors of £7,805.

The Official Receiver states the company was formed in August, 1946, with £1,000 nominal capital, all of which was issued, to carry on business as furniture manufacturers. Bernard Rosen, a director, states that upon formation the company began the manufacture of small occasional furniture from premises at Curtain Road, E.C.2, but in November, 1945, larger premises were taken in Curtain Road. Although the company's timber allocation was small, the business appeared to be successful until April, 1948, when the purchase tax on furniture was increased, with the result that from that time until September, 1948, the company's operations were practically at a standstill; in the latter month, however, manufacture of Utility bedroom suites was undertaken for which additional premises at Gatesborough Street, E.C.2, were taken at a rent of £20 a month.

In March, 1949, the company received notice to quite the premises at Gatesborough Street, and, to obtain other accommodation, the company entered into an arrangement with another who was carrying on business as a cabinet maker from Forston Stret, London, N.1, to take over the assets and liabilities and a sub-lease of those premises.

In order to keep production at an economic level, which was impossible on the normal timber allocation, an off-cut licence was obtained; the off-cuts were backed with a veneer and used in the manufacture of bedroom suites, but this method proved to be unsatisfactory, and it was discovered that the furniture cracked after several week's use. The directors estimate that over £2,000 was lost through returns by dissatisfied customers.

When, in November, 1949, timber came off licence, the company, because of losses suffered through the use of off-cuts had insufficient funds to buy the stocks necessary to keep production at full capacity. Unsuccessful efforts were made to obtain additional capital, but on March 24, this year, a resolution for voluntary liquidation was passed. No action was taken, however, on this resolution as the petition upon which the present winding-up order was made had already been filed.

COUNTY COURT JUDGMENTS

The following information has been taken from the Registry of County Court Judgments, the Treasury, S.W.1. Publication does not imply inability to pay. Debts may have been paid, or may refer to disputed cases.

Boulton, C. W. (male), 33a, Andrews Street, Leicester, upholsterer. £17 16s. 7d. September 7.

Granville Furnishers, Ltd., R/O: A. Rowley & Co., 30, Borough High Street, S.E.1. £122 2s. 11d. July 24.

Thomas, H. V. (male), 14, Market Street, Narberth, furniture dealer. £15 2s. 2d. September 21.

Adams Furniture Crafts, Limited, R/O: School Walk, Langley Street, Luton. £48 10s. 4d. September 19.

Elliston, Leonard George, 124, Erith Road, Bexleyheath, furniture repairer. £10 11s. September 18.

Senior, A. W. (male), 65a, Livingstone Road, Hove, bedding manufacturer. £21 10s. September 15.

Pollard, Arthur, 139, Willow Street, Leicester, upholsterer. £114 15s. 8d. September 8.

Sherman (Furniture) Products, Limited, R/O: Lark Row, Bishops Way, E.2. £15 14s. 6d. September 8.

Whittington, R. (male), Forest Row, Sussex, upholsterer. £11 10s. 7d. September 19.

Sunresta

SPRING INTERIOR MATTRESSES & DIVANS

W. LEET & SON, LTD. • CURTAIN RD. • LONDON, E.C.2

HOUSE OF COMMONS

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all seating throughout the Chamber,
galleries and lobbies, and every other
article of upholstered furniture
throughout the new building
are equipped with

DUNLOPILLO

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Architect for the Minstry of Works: Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, O.M., R.A.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

The co-operation of the contractors responsible for the seating is gratefully acknowledged by Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd.,

J. L. GREEN & VARDY, LTD., LONDON; MAPLE & CO., LTD., LONDON; H. H. MARTYN & CO., LTD., CHELTENHAM; F. SAGE & CO., LTD., LONDON; WARING & GILLOW, LTD., LONDON.

DUNLOP RUBBER CO., LTD. (DUNLOPILLO DIVISION), WALTON, LIVERPOOL 9. LONDON: 19/20 NEW BOND STREET, W.1.

FOUNDERS OF THE LATEX FOAM INDUSTRY

50D/D59

Illustrated with special pictures by W. R. Gray, "Furnishing World" cameraman

The New House of Commons

A Great Tribute to the Furnishing Craft

The Speaker's Chair is in Australian black bean, beautifully carved. The seat and footstool are in green hide.

WHEN, during World War II, enemy bombs hit the House of Commons in Westminster, they destroyed some of the most famous architecture, decoration and furnishing in the world. Now, from the ruins of the old House, has risen a new Chamber which is a fine tribute to the architect, the builders—and the panelling, wood carving and furnishing industries.

This new House of Commons, which was formally opened by the King yesterday, will, we hope, for hundreds of years to come, be a silent testimony to the fine craftsmanship of this twentiéth century.

In the Chamber, the main focal point is, of course, the Speaker's Chair. This central feature and Symbol of Authority was ruined by the bombs on London; but on the other side of the world its replica, the

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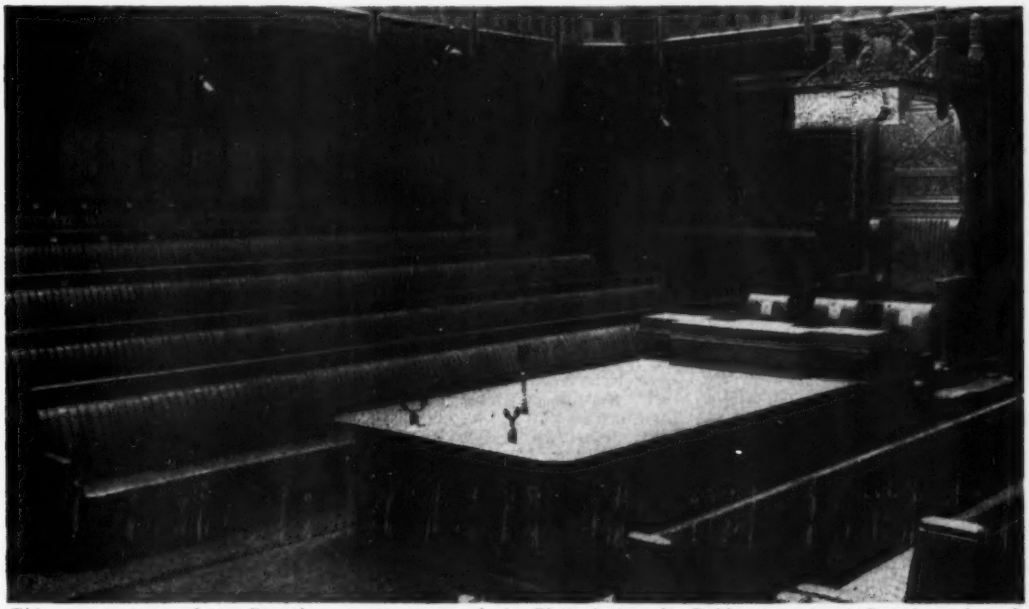
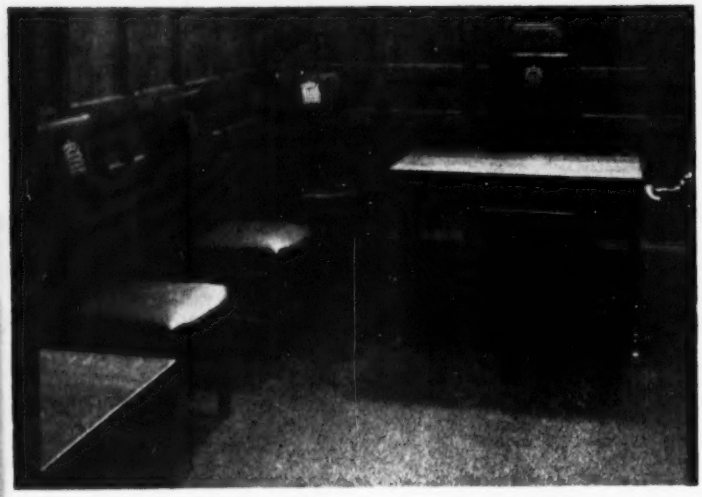


This general view of the Chamber shows the Speaker's Chair facing the Table, the gift of Canada and made in Canadian oak with brown hide covering. The benches are covered with green hide over latex cushioning. The carpeting is green jaspé Wilton with a red "Sword Bar" round the edge.

Fine Craftsmanship in The New House



This picture shows the Prime Minister's private room in the new House. The chairs are in green hide, the furniture and panelling of English oak, and the carpet of brown jaspé Wilton. On the right, not seen in the picture, is a fine open stone fireplace.

(continued from previous page)

Speaker's Chair in the House of Representatives at Canberra, remained intact. That was fortunate for Britain for it has made it possible to design the new Speaker's Chair and to incorporate many of its predecessor's features.

Speaker's Chair in Black Bean

The generous gift of Australia, the Chair has been made in black bean, sent specially from that country; and its beautiful craftsmanship is the work of H. H. Martyn & Co., Ltd., of Cheltenham (an associate of Maple & Co., Ltd.). Charles Gisborne is the foreman in charge of the four skilled men selected to make the Chair. He has been working with Martyn's for 45 years. In spite of his long experience he has never worked before on Australian black bean, but has been delighted by its qualities during the six months he has been employed on the work. Before the wood reached Cheltenham it was carefully and slowly seasoned at the Forest Products Research Laboratories at Princes Risborough.

Gothic in design, the Speaker's Chair stands on a raised dais dominating the Debating Chamber. In the back, below the canopy, is a splendid piece of elaborate carving, designed round the Mace, symbol of the Speaker's office, and the Black Rod, symbol of the usher who summons the Commons to attend in the House of Lords. The magnificent chair, upholstered in Connolly Bros.' green Vaumol hide, is surmounted by a carved canopy with delicately designed corner posts and the arms of the United Kingdom in the centre. It is hung with blue damask worked in gold and silver, and conceals a microphone which will enable the Speaker's voice to be heard distinctly all over the Chamber. And so that he, too, can catch all that Members say, electric conduits have been run inside the side panelling, to serve two loudspeakers as well as the fluorescent lighting which runs under the canopy.

Another word is really due to the blue and gold canopy above the Speaker's Chair. The fine embroidery is probably among the best that has been produced in this country for many years. It was woven in the workshops of Watts & Co. of Baker Street.

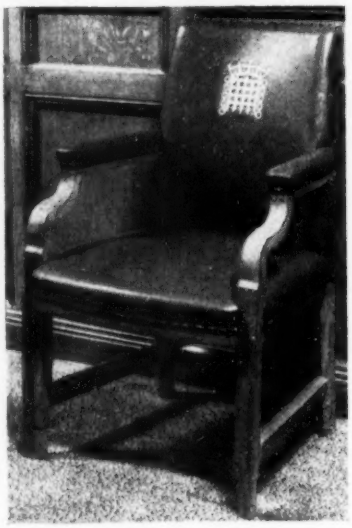
All the panelling and furniture in the Debating Chamber, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, is in English oak. It has been sprayed with sulphate of iron to give it an olive grey tone which it will retain indefinitely.

The famous Dispatch Boxes which play such a big role in the procedure of the House of Commons were finished also by H. H. Martyn & Co., Ltd. These are the gift of New Zealand, made in New Zealand pururi wood. The ¼ in. thick wood is lined with mole coloured leather. There are elaborate bronze decorations on the tops and sides through which can be seen the glowing colour of red hide. This is Vaumol hide prepared by Connolly Brothers (Curriers), Ltd.

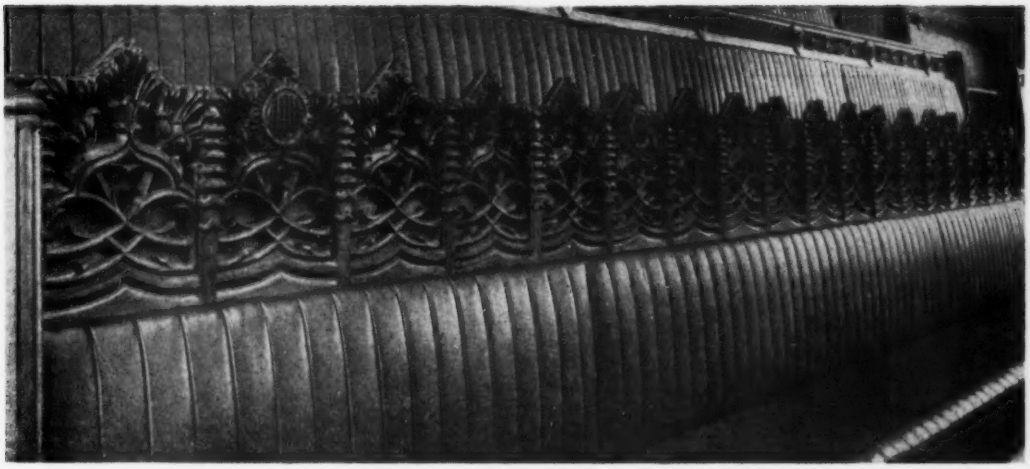
Benches in Green Hide

Connolly's Vaumol hide, in green, was also used by Maples and Martyn's in carrying out the whole of the upholstery in the Chamber.

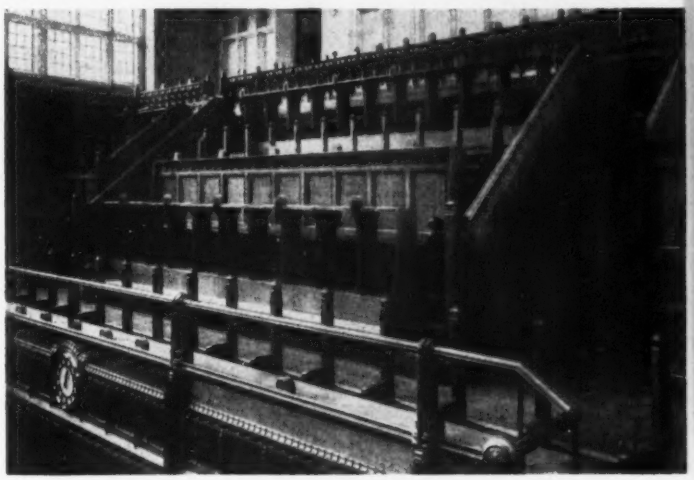
As a matter of fact, several hundreds of Connolly's Vaumol hides were manufactured to special shades of green and brown, chosen by the architect and the Ministry of Works, for the new House. Apart from the Speaker's Chair and the Benches in the Chamber, green hides were used to cover all the seating and tables in the Division Lobbies, the Commons Lobbies, and the Prime Minister's



This close-up picture shows details of design and construction of one of the three chairs which stand before the Speaker's Chair. It is in green hide and English oak, and, like all others throughout the House, carries the Portcullis and Tudor Rose on the back.



These "Furnishing World" pictures show some of the very fine carving and panelling in the Galleries of the new House of Commons. The picture above gives a good conception of the intricate carved work above the green hide benches. Let into the woodwork are microphones covered by bronze grilles. The Gallery above is the Distinguished Strangers'; the one below is the Press Gallery.



All pictures by "World" cameraman.

conference room. Brown Vaumol hide was used on all the tables in the Ministers' rooms, a conference room on the ground floor, in the interview rooms, and two conference rooms on the lower ground floor. The brown leather was also used to cover the tables of Members' writing rooms and chairs in the reporters' dining-room and buffet.

This seating in the new House is of distinct interest. The Government and Opposite Benches, running the full length of the Chamber from the Speaker's Chair to the Bar of the House, is a long vista of an unusual and delightful shade of green hide, and Dunlopillo cushioning is used throughout.

Easy To Maintain

The seating of hair stuffing and springs in the old House, with buttons to hold down its covering of hide, was too hard, particularly for all-night sittings. Buttons had to be continually replaced. The covering was stabbed through with pencil points in attempts to catch the Speaker's eye. Members damaged the leather by cutting papers on it. The general result was that a permanent maintenance staff had to be employed at the House to look after the upholstery. Maintenance will still be necessary; but whereas all the covering of the old seating had to be removed for one repair, in future only one narrow flute of hide need be taken away.

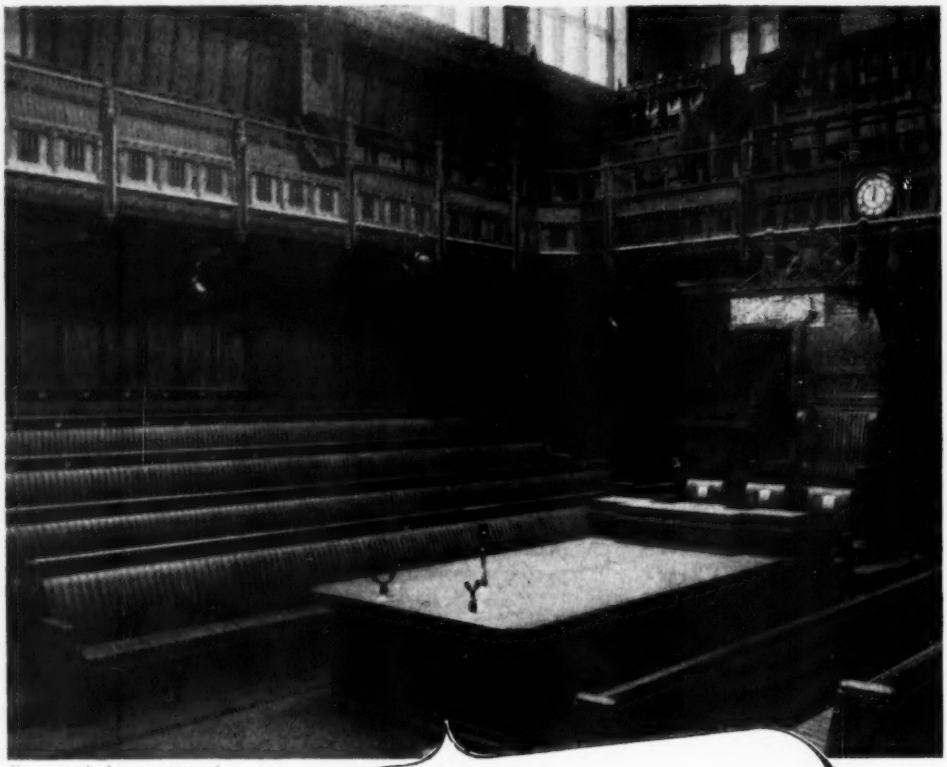
With Dunlopillo cushioning, buttons are no longer necessary. The new seating has a fluted covering of Connolly's green hide which is also used in the Distinguished Strangers' gallery. This latex filling is used throughout the new House of Commons, from the Speaker's Chair down to the stools in the telephone boxes. In the House there are seats for 437 Members, 165 special strangers, 161 ordinary strangers, 161 reporters, and 15 officials.

The same cushioning is also used in the rest of the House for the lounge settees, armchairs, small chairs, restaurant chairs, office chairs and stools in the Prime Minister's room, Leader of the Opposition's room, Ministers' rooms, conference rooms, secretaries' rooms, waiting rooms, restaurant, and telephone boxes.

Dunlopillo was chosen after samples had been prepared and tested in different Government offices for the Select Committee considering the building of the new House of Commons. A complete seat to the design of the new Front Bench was then produced in the firm's factory at Walton, Liverpool. In all, five proto-

(*continued on page* 61)

THE CHAMBER OF THE NEW HOUSE OF COMMONS



Photograph by courtesy of "Furnishing World"

Leather by Connolly

The Speaker's Chair and all the benches are upholstered in green VAUMOL HIDE

CONNOLLY BROS. (CURRIERS) LIMITED

CHARLTON STREET, EUSTON ROAD, LONDON, N.W.I. PHONE: EUSTON 1661

Furnishings of the New House

(*from page* 59)

types were produced and, after three months' discussions and testing by Mr. Herbert Morrison and other members of the Select Committee, the one recommended by the manufacturers was preferred. Work then went ahead on the seating of the Chamber and Division Lobbies, followed by the equipment of the Speaker's Chair and the rest of the House.

Machine-Woven Gobelins

In other rooms of the House, apart from the Debating Chamber, the chairs are covered in a fine tapestry worked in exactly the same way as the famous Gobelins. This was specially machine-woven by British Replin Ltd.

In the Chamber itself the main carpeting is in mottled green Wilton with a red stripe to form a border about twelve inches from the edge. The carpeting of the steps which divide the benches, as well as of the floors of the Division Lobbies, conference rooms, and so on, is in a brown mottled Wilton. This carpeting was taken from stock by the Minister of Works, but was, we are informed, made by Templeton's of Glasgow.

The Tellers' Desks

Of considerable interest are the Tellers' desks in the Division Lobbies. There are two in each Lobby, standing parallel with one another at the entrance. These desks are on metal runways and when a Division is called the two desks are pulled out from the walls so that they almost meet one another in the centre. Small doors pull out to join them together, thus making sure all Members must pass either to left or right of the two Tellers.

The Tellers' desks in the Division Lobbies are of considerable interest. It can be seen from the picture that the two desks are pulled out from the sides of the walls on metal runways. When they are close together small doors pull out from the side of each desk to form a barrier, thus making certain that Members pass only to right and left of the Tellers so that their numbers may be accurately counted. The desks are in English oak, treated, like all other woodwork in the House, with sulphate of iron, to give a permanent olive grey tone.

This is more clearly seen in one of our pictures—and incidentally all pictures in this feature were taken by Mr. W. R. Gray, *Furnishing World's* own cameraman.

Panelling and Carving

The panelling and carving in the Chamber is a really fine tribute to the firm which produced it—J. L. Green & Vardy. It was carried out in English oak supplied by John Ashworth & Co. (Timber), Ltd. The whole of the joinery in the Chamber and furniture prepared by this firm is in the highest tradition of British craftsmanship in wood.

Frederick Sage & Co., Ltd., were responsible for the fine joinery work in the Division and Commons Lobbies as well as for the mirror light fittings.

Other firms who contributed to the work are The Acme Flooring & Paving (1904), Ltd. (wood block flooring); Bratt Colbran, Ltd. (electric fires); Horace W. Cullum & Co., Ltd. (telephone cabinets); F. W. Elliott, Ltd. (timing clock); General Electric Co., Ltd. (electric light fittings); Haskins (sunblinds); Korkoid Decorative Floors (rubber flooring); John Mowlem & Co., Ltd. (joinery, except for Chamber, Division and Commons Lobbies); Osler & Faraday, Ltd. (electric light fittings); Smith & Ansell, Ltd. (electric light fittings); Sorbo, Ltd. (rubber strip to telephone kiosk doors).

Scarcity of Craftsmen

The new House is, as we have said, a great tribute to the furnishing and its allied industries. It is hoped that this workmanship of the twentieth century will be admired for hundreds of years to come.

It is a criticism of this Age, however, that it was only with considerable difficulty that sufficient craftsmen were found to carry out the beautiful carved work. Indeed, we understand that it was necessary to "dig out" some elderly craftsmen from their retirement. Does this mean that when these men are no longer able to work the great craft of English carving will have disappeared for ever? That would be a catastrophe, and schemes for training in craftsmanship are shown in a new sense of urgency.

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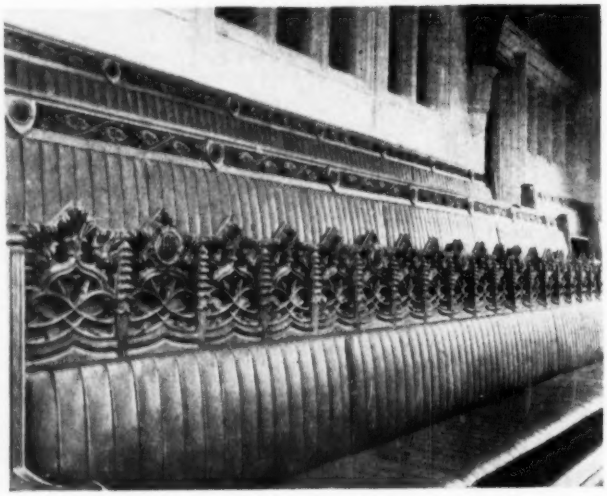
Structural Woodwork in the Chamber..

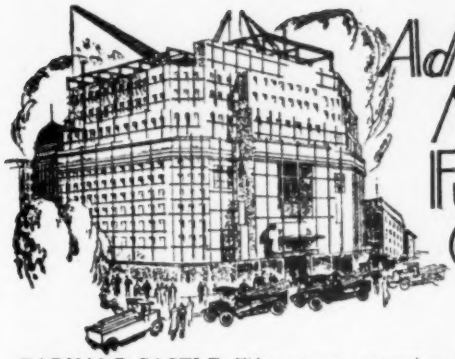


Part of the Strangers' Gallery

We were specially commissioned to execute the contract for the carved interior Woodwork, Ceiling, Panelling, Seating, etc., of the new Debating Chamber, House of Commons, Westminster.

GREEN & VARDY LTD.

79 ESSEX ROAD, LONDON, N.1 *Phone: CANonbury 3254-5 Grams: Grevardy, Nordo*



Advance News of Furnishing Contracts

BARNARD CASTLE. Fifty-seven officers' married quarters will be erected for Northern Command on Flatts Estate by the M.O.W.

CARDIFF. T.C. Planning Committee has approved proposal by Ely Brewery Co., Ltd., to rebuild Coburn Hotel, Wyeverne Road, and has granted permission to Richard Lunt & Co. for premises extension at Frederick Road.

A new maternity unit is proposed at the Royal Infirmary, for which the architects are Sir Percy Thomas & Son, 10, Cathedral Road, Cardiff.

CHIPPENHAM (Wilts). The M.O.W. has granted a licence for the erection of a two-storey building to be used as a N.A.A.F.I. club.

CLACTON. Essex County E.C.'s scheme for additional accommodation at St. Osyth's Training College, Clacton-on-Sea, is under M.E. consideration. It is suggested that the cost should be reduced from £30,970 to £25,000.

DUDLEY. Adaptation of Albert House as an aged persons' home, for T.C.

DURHAM. Plans have been approved for an office and canteen block at Coxhoe, for Streetley & Co., Ltd.

100 BED HOSTEL

ESTON. Smith's Dock Co., Ltd., shipbuilders, South Bank-on-Tees, are planning the erection of a hostel to accommodate 100 of their employees in Skippers Lane, Normanby.

FARINGDON (Berks). Adaptations at Longworth Hospital, for Oxford Regional Hospital Board.

GATESHEAD. Newcastle upon Tyne Regional Hospital Board will carry out a scheme of modernisation at Bensham General Hospital, blocks G, H, and I.

GLASGOW. Mr. John MacNab, 129, Bath Street, Glasgow, W.C.2, will prepare plans for the proposed extension of Our Lady and St. Francis R.C. School, to cost £50,000.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE. The C.C. Health Committee has approved plans for a nurses' home and clinic at Painswick, to cost £3,300, as a war memorial.

HULL. Leeds Regional Hospital Board, 29, Eastgate, Leeds, proposes a preliminary training school at Western General Hospital.

Sketch plans by the City Architect, Andrew Rankine, have been approved by Hull Watch Committee for the completion of the proposed police headquarters at Queen's Gardens, Hull. The cost is estimated at £400,000.

NEW GIRLS' SCHOOL

STRETFORD. The E.C. has been informed by Lancs E.C. that a starting date in September has been granted by the M.E. for the new girls' high school.

LANCASHIRE. The E.C. plans to adapt and extend Woodville, Longridge, for use as a residential school. The cost is estimated at £30,000.

LINCOLN. Adaptations and additions at Roseland Children's Home, Scothern, for T.C. City Architect, P. F. Burridge. £5,786.

LONDON. A building contract is let for new offices proposed at Kingsway, W.C.2, by C.R.C. Investments, Ltd., 58, Haymarket, S.W.1. The cost is £92,000.

LONDON (Forest Hill). Mr. J. G. Hands, Five Oaks, Inglemere Road, S.E.23, is the architect for rebuilding of Convent of Ladies of Mary, Forest Hill, to cost £15,000.

LONDON, W.1. Young & Hall, 9, Southampton Row, W.C.1, are the architects for extensions planned at Middlesex Hospital, Ridinghouse Street, W.1.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. William Stockdale, 73, Howard Street, North Shields, has prepared plans for converting "Ranby," Adderson Crescent, into an orphanage for the Trustees of the Northern Counties Orphanage.

Contracts have been arranged for a six-storey building at Prudhoe Street, as a centre for Ministry of Labour.

POOLE. A new maternity unit at St. Mary's Hospital, for South-West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board. £3,034.

STRATFORD. L. H. Fewster & Partners, 22, Conduit Street, London, W.1, are the architects for offices for Ministry of Pensions and Inland Revenue Department, to cost about £70,000.

HOTEL TO BE REBUILT

SWANSEA. Sir Percy Thomas & Son, 10, Cathedral Road, Cardiff, are the architects for rebuilding of Royal Hotel.

TWICKENHAM. War damage reinstate and alterations and additions at Twickenham Technical College, at £14,580, has been approved by Middlesex E.C. Tenders will be obtained.

WAKEFIELD. The T.C. has approved a scheme to adapt Kettlethorpe Hall as a residential home, at a cost of £4,500.

WARWICKS. A police station, court, etc., are proposed at Kenilworth by the Standing Joint Committee.

WELLINGBOROUGH (Northants). A new health centre is proposed at a cost of about £50,000.

WEST BROMWICH. Rebuilding of Bulls Head public house at Bull Lane, for W. Butler & Co., Ltd., Wolverhampton.

WEST RIDING. C.C. approval recommended for purchase of Wells House Hotel, Ilkley, for use as teachers' training college. The cost is £120,000.

WORTHING. Plans submitted: Additions at Lincoln Lodge Hotel, Manor Road, for L. E. Dore; architect, P. Haworth, Armhurst Chambers, North Street, Worthing. Additions to Beach Hotel, Marine Parade; architects, M. R. Fletcher & Partners, 13, Ambrose Place, Worthing.

SHEFFIELD. Sheffield Regional Hospital Board, Fulwood House, Old Fulwood Road, Sheffield, have approved the construction of a patients' canteen at the Saxondale Hospital.

SOUTHEND. The North-East Regional Hospital Board, 11a, Portland Place, London, W.1, propose erection of a rehabilitation block at the General Hospital.

WANSTEAD. North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board, 11a, Portland Place, W.1, propose the erection of a new hospital on the site of the existing Wanstead Hospital.

This display in the left-hand window introduces shoppers to the exhibition. The large white letters show up against a background of furnishing fabrics. In the foreground are pieces of occasional furniture.

Real, Practical Help in Home-Making Brought Crowds to this Store

ANYONE visiting the shop of Harrison Gibson, of Ilford, one Saturday a few weeks ago, would have been astonished by a sight unfortunately rare at the present time. Crowds of people were swarming through the door. Four abreast they streamed in and up the stairs.

The reason for this unusual occurrence was the opening of a Colour and Design Exhibition which Harrison Gibson were staging.

So great was the interest aroused that, on the first day, Mr. J. G. Gibson told a "Furnishing World" feature writer, between 5,000 and 6,000 people visited the show. At times they caused a complete blockage of the stairway. An employee of the firm said that during the past 25 years he had not seen anything to compare with it.

The exhibition was designed to introduce the public to contemporary furniture and to demonstrate the use that can be made of colour in decorative schemes. Although Harrison Gibson's had shown contemporary furniture before, this was the first time that they had tried to put it over in a big way.

"The idea of demonstrating the use of colour was put forward by our soft furnishings department," said Mr. Gibson. "They were getting an increasing number of enquiries from people who wanted to buy carpets and furnishings, but who had no idea of colour schemes.

"We have tried in this exhibition to suggest how to make the best use of the available merchandise."

The idea for the exhibition was only suggested three or four weeks before it opened; and this meant intensive organisation by the sales and display staffs.

The first and second floors were used for the show. On the first floor, which usually houses the carpet and soft furnishings departments, a series of small stands were arranged in various positions around the room. On each stand a few lengths of fabrics, a chair, small table, carpet, standard lamp or some other item of occasional furniture were arranged.

The schemes suggested matching or contrasting colours which would blend well, and also the types of fabrics and carpets, either in texture or design, which could be used together.

Each stand had a particular message. One said "How to make a small room appear larger," another "For sunny rooms use cool colours," other suggestions such as "Scheme for walnut," "Suggestions for living rooms," "Your north room," "Relative sizes. What size pattern is best for small and large rooms," were shown on cards placed on the stands. "18th century charm" and "Late Georgian" stands helped the public to recognise period designs.

These stands were a great attraction; they were cleverly arranged to show a large variety of designs attractively displayed. Accessories such as pictures, trays, wine glasses and china were added to the stands to give them a more natural appearance.

Utility and non-Utility fabrics were shown and both sold well. The soft furnishings department buyer said that he found customers quite ready and willing to purchase non-Utility fabrics retailing about £2 a yard.

Each stand was shown against a background of wallpaper of appropriate design. This had been supplied by a local builders' merchant, although it was hung by Harrison Gibson's display staff. On the stands small cards told the public the name of the suppliers of the wallpaper.

On the second floor a series of room schemes were displayed. On one side of the floor five rooms were arranged along the wall showing dining, lounge and bedroom furniture. The floors were carpeted and fabrics were hung on the walls to give the impression of window drapings. Unit furniture was displayed, as well as contemporary furniture and, for the more conservative public, standard designs were shown.

A square centrepiece, built specially for the exhibition, was erected in the middle of the floor. This showed four more room schemes, one at each corner, and in the centre two arches separated a couple of small displays of drapings and occasional pieces. Another scheme showing nursery furniture occupied a corner of the floor.

Suites were picked because of their suitability for ordinary middle-class

How Ilford firm Organised Colour and Design Show

homes and the designs shown were practical.

To show the public the type of furniture they would see inside the store, window displays were arranged carrying out the theme of the exhibition. Harrison Gibson are fortunate in having a fairly considerable amount of window space, and they made full use of it.

Four room schemes were arranged in the central window. In the front was a bedrom suite of contemporary design and next to that a modern dining set. The next scheme showed a bedroom suite of standard design, and, further round, a dining-room furnished in period style.

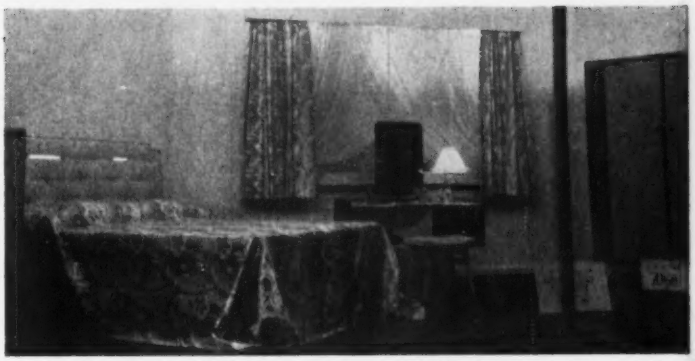
A long window on the left had a background of draped fabrics; occasional pieces were shown in the foreground. Between them were the words COLOUR AND DESIGN in large white letters. At the corner of that window a revolving dais showed four different room schemes in miniature. Other windows were dressed with carpets and fabric displays.

Posters advertising the exhibition were shown in all the windows, and advertisements appeared in the local papers.

Another original idea was the printing of a number of distinctive gilt-edged invitation cards which were enclosed in estimates, letters or other correspondence sent out by the firm.

The exhibition was shown for a fortnight. After that, it went on tour to the Bromley and Bedford branches.

"Suggestion for Contemporary-minded" is how the public are told to regard this display, also in a corner of the fabric showroom.



This bedroom suite forms the centrepiece of Harrison Gibson's window displays. It is of contemporary design, and shows to advantage with matching curtains and bedspread.

This small display in one corner of the first floor showroom has the message "Suggestion in Two Tone Effect." The wallpapers were specially chosen to go with the fabrics.

showing for a fortnight at each place. Customers who wished to buy the actual suites that were on show were allowed to do so, but they had to wait for delivery until the tour of the exhibition was over. Otherwise, orders were taken for suites of the same design.

Harrison Gibson's organise exhibitions of this kind, on a fairly large scale, about twice a year, usually in the spring and autumn. They also run speciality weeks from time to time.

Asked if he found the public reluctant to walk into these exhibitions, Mr. Gibson said that they were well known in the neighbourhood for being a store where people could walk around and examine goods without being pressed to buy.

He Assembled Chairs in the Window

Display that Won First Prize—and Drew Business

A FEW weeks ago we published the story of a firm who had won first prize for a window display in their local Shopping Week. Here is another firm, The Imperial Furnishing Co. of Newton Abbot, whose display also won them a first prize.

The display was a "live" show, featuring a craftsman assembling easy chairs in the window.

The scheme was first thought of by Mr. Turner, first sales, and was organised in conjunction with Dartington Hall, Ltd., manufacturers of "Lamda" chairs, who were most co-operative.

The craftsman, Mr. E. Watkins, an experienced joiner from Dartington Sawmills, had a full-sized bench in the window. All the necessary parts were displayed around him, including the rough wood (grown nearby), sub-assemblies, springs and covers (woven at Dartington Hall).

The display was not difficult to arrange. It was not necessary to make any alterations to the window and, with the exception of an electric drill, no heavy machines had to be installed.

Apart from winning the prize the display was a great success from the business point of view, Mr. W. H. Austin, managing director, told a *Furnishing World* feature writer. The sales of "Lamda" chairs during the week were very satisfactory.

The display drew large crowds around the window watching Mr. Watkins, who started working at 9 a.m. and finished at 5 p.m.

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The Furniture Bedding & Upholstery Manufacturer

VOL. 26, No. 345 October 27th, 1950

A PRACTICAL JOURNAL FOR THE FURNITURE AND WOODWORKING INDUSTRIES

Furniture Makers are Missing Big Opportunities—say N.E. Retailers

Non-Selective Distribution Means Same Designs in Every Store

FURNITURE retailers, particularly those in closely-linked provincial towns in the North-East, have a criticism to make of manufacturers.

THEY say that although they are getting some very fine suites nowadays, manufacturers have so flooded certain areas with three or four types of furniture that customers can buy the same suites from many retailers.

This is what Mr. C. H. Nelson, chairman and managing director of Blackett and Son, Ltd., Sunderland, and a vice-president of the North-East Furnishing Federation, had to say of the position:

"The manufacturers are undoubtedly killing the goose which lays the golden egg. Gone are the days when retailers could go to wholesalers and order a suite which had not been displayed in their particular town. Nowadays people are getting fed up with seeing the same furniture in the homes of their friends. They want a change and so does the trade.

"In my opinion, the manufacturers would do well if they confined certain designs to two or three retailers in a town," continued Mr. Nelson. "This could be varied according to the population, but let us get rid of this present business of every retailer in an area stocking the same type of furniture.

"We should be able to have exclusive designs; to have the choice which made both business and shopping so much more interesting in pre-war days."

He contended that there was plenty of variety in suites in Britain, but that manufacturers "were out for figures." He could appreciate their point of view, but pointed out that he felt that if they made half the present quantity and sold it to only half the normal number of retailers the cost of producing new designs "would not be a great deal extra."

"There is no doubt that manufacturers are losing a wonderful opportunity nowadays because young couples setting up home are sick of being limited to Utility furniture of the same design as many others. People want originality in their homes," added Mr. Nelson.

Question and Answer is on page 72

Quick answers came from furniture manufacturers who were invited to give their side of the argument. Said one, who for business reasons preferred to remain anonymous: "I would like to restrict the sale of a particular model suite to three or four stores in Manchester, but no retailer would give me a sufficiently large order to enable this to be done.

"We cannot afford to cut out orders; we must sell where there is demand, and for the moment if the whole of an area is willing to take our goods then they must have them."

Another furniture manufacturer asked what would happen to the "little men"—those who only sold six suites in a month.

"The solution to this problem will come in time by a natural trading process: we have seen it happen before," added a Sunderland manufacturer.

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Proved, Practical Ideas for—

Better Factory Layout that Gives More Floor Space and Faster Production

IN my article in last week's "World," I dealt with various suggestions for improving relations between management and men. This week, I intend to discuss layout in the furniture factory, another aspect of production which has not been sufficiently "aired," yet which makes an important contribution to the efficient running and increased productivity of a factory, whatever its size.

A PROPERLY laid-out plant reduces fire hazard, steps up production, improves working conditions, and encourages tidiness among operatives.

The smaller furniture manufacturer who decides against the installation of mechanical handling equipment on the ground of "no space" will very often find that there is plenty of room for a compact platform or fork truck when the floor layout has been replanned.

A careful inspection of a furniture maker's present layout may show that, due to lack of balance, lack of synchronised flow, a fair amount of space is required for "buffer stocks" between operations. It may be found that operators are frequently called over to help with bottlenecks on other operations, and build up these stocks. The sub-assembly benches may be laid out in such a manner that parts have to be carried a long way to the assembly point. Doors, for instance, may be carried from one corner of the shop to the other.

Chaos Not Realised

The result of such a layout is soon plain to the critical outside eye, but it may be that the management has grown used to it and the resulting chaos is not fully appreciated as a production-slowing factor.

They may not realise that such a layout can cause dissension between operatives on the various operations because they feel the unfairness of one man being required to carry out more work than another, for the same reward. There may be irritation caused by the disorganised layout which necessitates a walk across the department for material, or to let someone know it is required; further annoyance by bumping into other people on the way and interrupting their work. And again, the supervisor may not have full control since the piles of material lying about prevent his seeing what is going on in the shop.

The Well-Planned Shop

Having discussed the main points to look for when overhauling a floor layout, I now want to touch upon the salient features of a shop that is well planned. It should mean that no buffer stocks are required because the line is balanced. All sub-assembly benches are located adjacent to the main line station at which the parts made at those benches will be assembled. All raw material is stored adjacent to the sub-assembly benches on which it will be used, thus freeing the large storage area previously occupied for other purposes. Less stock is required because of the balanced flow.

A layout with these features may reduce the floor area required by 30 per cent or more, and pay dividends in cleaner-looking shops and happier employees. Costs, it will be found, are reduced proportionately through attention to details.

First essential in a good floor layout is that all obstructions are removed—and steps taken to see they do not again accumulate—and layout marks cleared of any obscuring dirt or wood dust.

The aisles between the machines should be clear and as wide as the floor area will permit. It is impossible to stipulate the area which should be given to any machine; that should be left to the executive on the spot who knows his machine, his operative, and the type of article being produced.

Improving Floor Layout

The first step, of course, towards correcting faults in layout is to provide the necessary floor space, even though it may mean having machines and other facilities rearranged and—in extreme cases—building a small extension to the shop. Once this has been done, the next step is to line off wide aisles and zones for parking loaded platform trucks, as well as spaces for empty ones.

Although white boundary lines are usually used for this purpose, pipe railings can be erected to designate different aisles and zones if preferred. Where such railings are used, the layout can be further improved by covering the aisles with thick sheet-iron to give a better floor for the trucks.

Machine operatives and bench hands are sometimes so hampered by limited working space that they are unable to turn out the quality and quantity of work which they could produce under more favourable conditions. There are mills in which the tenoner cannot be operated when extra-long timber is being handled on the mortiser, and the operations of certain other machines are similarly restricted.

By the Features Editor

Every woodworking shop should be so designed and laid-out that employees do not have to turn long timber or lineal stock any more than absolutely necessary. There is obvious danger where long timber is being constantly turned, though a certain amount of it must be done in many plants.

Complete revision of the floor layout may well mean revision of the lighting system, and here the series of articles on planned lighting in the furniture factory which were published in the December issues of the "World" last year will act as an authoritative guide.

Even if, after taking everything into consideration, a furniture maker is satisfied with his present layout, it could probably be still further improved by repainting the aisle lines and cleaning or repainting the signposts.

Trailing wires should be avoided at all costs. They are dangerous,

untidy, and subject to unnecessary depreciation.

Storing Tools and Fixtures

Many shop layouts are spoilt because the manufacturer has not solved the problem of storing special tools, jigs and fixtures, with the result that they litter up the walls, crowd the corners, and make the job of manœuvring a platform or fork truck very difficult.

The practice of leaning tools and fixtures against the wall with the last-used piece of tooling on top effectively hiding the others has much to condemn it. Apart from its disorderly appearance, it causes a loss of time on the part of employees looking through the various piles to locate a certain item.

A few manufacturers make no attempt to mark the various pieces of tooling in such a manner as to indicate the part for which it is intended, but the majority stencil or otherwise indicate the model and part number on each piece.

One system in common use shows the model and part number for which it is intended upon each piece of tooling. This number is followed by code letters indicating the type of fixture it is, and the piece of equipment, if any, for which it was designed.

For example, a fixture used for routing out drawer fronts would carry the model and part number, followed by R indicating router, and 12, indicating the equipment number of the machine for which it was designed. In the same manner, sub-assembly fixtures bear a dash SA, while those for final assembly are designated FA.

Through such a system of letter coding followed by dash numbers, each piece of tooling shows for what model and part it was constructed and on which piece of equipment it should be used. It reduces, also, the chances of error in selecting tooling for re-runs of jobs where several different pieces of the same general size and shape are available.

Coding Method for Tools

Any design changes which necessitate a re-working of tooling should also be indicated on the fixture so that the workman can be certain that the tooling he is using corresponds to the latest blueprint from which he is constructing the item.

That is one suggestion for clearing the floor space and increasing efficiency at the same time by proper coding. But there still remains the question of neat and orderly storage. It is no good, having worked out such a commendable coding system, if the tools and fixtures are returned to their former places against the walls and piled up in dark corners. The best possible solution is to set aside a room, or a portion of the mill, for storage of tooling. Suitable racks should be constructed to hold all existing tools and space provided for additional ones resulting from new models.

Another idea is to use large bins into which all the tooling for a particular job can be stored at one time; or fixtures can be stored according to the type of work they are designed to perform.

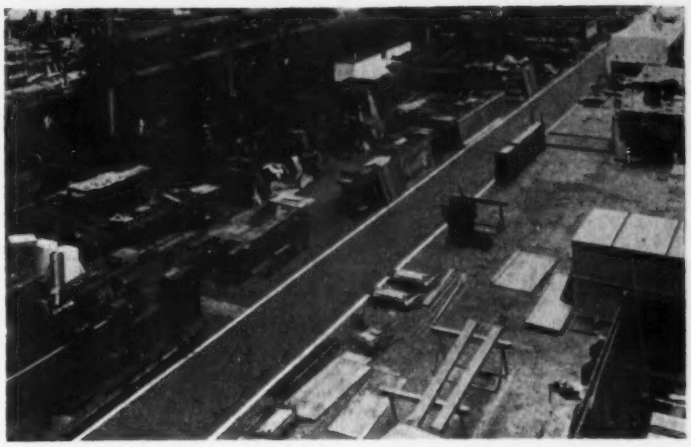
With the last method, all layout templates are kept in one section of the storage area, while shaper, router, saw and assembly fixtures are grouped according to function.

Advantage of "Bin" Storage

An advantage of the "bin" method is that all items of tooling for a particular product, when stored together, may be taken out at one time when the particular job is to be run, and not piecemeal as occasion demands. Also, when the model has been discontinued, and it has been decided to scrap the existing tools, it is a simple matter to remove all of them at one time, thus freeing the storage area.

Another point which can also mean increased floor space is attention to stairways. Where space is at a premium, the so-called disappearing type of stairway, or pos-

(continued page 72)



The aisles should be clearly marked and kept free from obstruction. Small spaces, properly marked off, should be provided for loaded and empty trucks, maintenance, and so on.

Ten Reasons for Revising Your Layout

NO plant is better than its layout, for it is the layout which welds personnel, materials and machines into the efficient production unit.

A furniture manufacturer should look to his layout :—

1. If floor space is too crowded or is not used to its full capacity.

2. If the accident rate is high, indicating that working conditions are faulty.

3. If aisles are congested and take up more than 15 per cent of the floor space of the department.

4. If the arrangement and layout of machines causes excessive backtracking of work in process.

5. If there is considerable time lost in "stocking up" for assembly operations.

6. If bottlenecks occur, indicating inadequate machining or handling facilities.

7. If delays occur in individual operations, due to the absence of the right man and the right material.

8. If materials must be rehandled and stored many times before being processed.

9. If there is evidence of excessive lifting of material, regardless of weight and bulk, at frequent intervals.

10. If "short runs" are the rule rather than the exception.

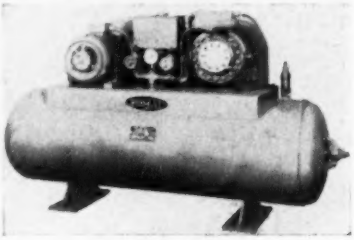
New Water-cooled Air Compressor for the Finishing Shop

IT is obvious from the enquiries received that details of new finishing shop equipment are always welcomed, possibly because many furniture manufacturers have the feeling—and usually quite rightly—that it is in that department that much can always be done to speed production.

IT will interest those, therefore, who plan to install a new air compressor, or to bring their present system up to date for finishing or for clamping equipment, that Romac Industries, Ltd., The Hyde, London, N.W.9, have recently marketed an automatic electric six cylinder water-cooled model (N.T. Six) which has a maximum working pressure of 150 lb. per square inch, with a displacement of 8 cubic feet per minute.

With a normal r.p.m. of 650, it is equipped with disc type valves which are readily detachable from the head. Inlet valves are accessible by the removal of the aluminium silencer and air filter.

The oil and moisture trap is connected to the cylinder head by finned copper pipe, and is automatically cleared by the unloader valve which operates when the machine cuts out.



The new automatic electric six cylinder water-cooled air compressor marketed by Romac Industries, Ltd.

Cooling is of the centrifugal pump, water circulation system. A welded tank is mounted on the rear of the receiver, and from here the water is pumped through the water jacket on the cylinder block and valve head. This method is claimed to give greatly improved cooling, increasing the efficiency of the compressor and allowing it to run for long periods. In addition to this, a powerful draught is forced from the cylinder block and valve head by the driving pulley.

The unit is powered by a 1½ h.p. single-phase motor of the repulsion induction type, or of the three-phase induction type. The three-phase machines are provided with direct-on contactor starters with magnetic overloads ensuring complete motor protection.

Manufacturers Should Give Public an Information Service

NEIL MORRIS, the Scottish designer, who has just opened a showroom at the Building Centre, Brunswick Terrace, Leeds, where he is, at present, displaying the latest examples of his Cumbrae furniture range, told a *World* features writer that he felt the manufacturer should do more for the public than design and sell them furniture.

He was convinced that the manufacturer should also offer the public an information service; it was only by getting close to the public that he would be able to provide the sort of furniture that was really needed.

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These Chairs Won Prizes in Scots Design Competition

Dundee, Lochwinnoch Firms' Successes: But No Prizes Awarded in One Section

DUNDEE firms took two out of the three prizes offered in connection with the Ship's Chair Competition sponsored by the Scottish Furniture Manufacturers' Association, and organised on their behalf by the Scottish Committee of the Council of Industrial Design.

FRANCIS EAST & CO., LTD., Maryfield Works, Dundee, gained a first in the Smoke-room Chair section with an entry which the judges described as: "An admirable chair: dignified, comfortable and reasonably strong." Detailing of wood and leather were described as being "particularly sensitive and good."

First Prize Lounge Chair

The chair was in walnut and black hide with a finish obtained purely from a mixture of linseed oil and turpentine. The upholstery of the back was secured by saddle stitching. Back and seat were filled with horsehair impregnated with foam rubber.

The other Dundee firm, also named East, were East Bros., Ltd., Lochee Cabinet Works, who took first prize for their lounge chair. It had a sprung seat and back, with a seat cushion of foam rubber and horsehair, the whole covered in two-toned Scottish tweed.

In their recommendation the judges said: "A thoroughly good contemporary version of the wing chair. Generous and comfortable, it provides adequate support for the head. The two-toned coverings are used cleverly to emphasise lines and to give interest."

The Writing-room Chair section was won by Joseph Johnstone, Ltd., Lochwinnoch, with a chair in natural beech, clear lacquered, and upholstered in blue hide over foam rubber. Of this one the judges commented: "A very successful design. Competent and sensitive to standard form, although the slats in the back lack something of refinement detail found in the rest of the chair."

In the fourth section—Dining-room Chair—the judges awarded no prizes at all. Scott Morton, of Murieston Road, Edinburgh, however, gained a high commendation for their entry, which was described as "an endeavour to harmonise three materials—wood, hide and metal."

The metal consisted of copper rails inserted in the back of the chair. White sycamore was used and

Constructed from walnut and upholstered in black hide, this chair won first prize in the Smoke-room section. Saddle stitching is used to secure the upholstery at the back.

"formed to a bone-like appearance." The seat and back were of foam rubber covered with dark blue hide.

The judges were "charmed by the sensitive detailing and original structure, but were unable to award a prize because it was felt that the use of the metal rails was a mistake."

The competition was restricted to manufacturers and designers working in Scotland, and a total of 38 entries were submitted by the 12 firms who participated. The judges were Professor R. D. Russell, Professor of Furniture and Metal at the Royal College of Art; Sir Colin Anderson, of the Orient Line steamship company; and Mr. Basil Spence, furniture designer and architect. All claimed to be highly impressed with the winning entries and to feel satisfaction at the overall high standard which was displayed.

First prize in the Lounge Chair section. The chair is cushioned with a mixture of foam rubber and horsehair and upholstered in two-tone Scottish tweed.

Considerations of comfort and attractiveness were points adjudged upon, as well as extra strength of construction, stability and, in some cases, provision for anchorage.

This chair, in clear lacquered natural beech and upholstered in blue hide, won first prize in the Writing-room section.

NEW TECHNICAL ADVICE SERVICE

Question and Answer

on your production problems

Importance of Cutter Balance

I HAVE attended various lectures and heard various discussions in which the importance of correct cutter balance has been stressed. In my own factory I have suffered from very little trouble from this cause and I should be glad to know what importance you really attach to the matter.

WHILE a lack of accurate cutter balance may not be very noticeable with low speeds, it is practically sure to cause trouble in the case of high-speed cutter heads. A really ideal balance calls for uniformity in shape, weight and projection of the knives. Even although the weight and contour of two or more knives may be identical they will not balance if there happens to be a difference in projection beyond the lip of the cutter block. In order to compensate for variations in weight the operator has the choice of grinding the heavier cutter to make up the difference or placing an extra washer of suitable weight on the light side of the assembly.

Cracks in Bandsaws

DO you recommend the use of the centre-punch for curing cracks in bandsaw blades?

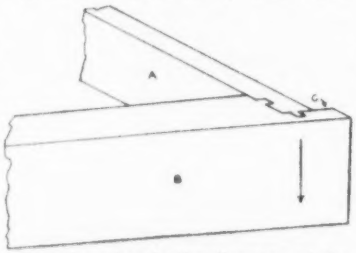
BANDSAW fractures can often be effectively headed off through the judicious use of a good centre-punch. Where the fracture is comparatively short it is advisable to punch the hole about ⅛ in. ahead of it, always working from both sides of the blade so that the steel at that particular point will not be affected all the way through. In case this precaution is overlooked and the hole punched less than, say, ⅛ in. distant, it is apt to cause the fracture to continue to spread further into the blade, thus doing more harm than good. In order to minimise troubles of this sort, it is wise to have the blades fitted up and, when necessary, repaired by a man who devotes his entire time to such work.

Lock Corner Joint

WE have been advised that there is a special type of joint which can be pushed together endwise and which is particularly suited to such items as "lip-front" drawers. We have never had occasion to use such a joint and should be glad if you could explain the principle and also the best methods of construction.

IT is assumed that our correspondent refers to a type of lock corner construction which has been found to be particularly applicable to end-to-end joints at 90 degrees. The sketch (Fig. 1) illustrates a joint which is frequently used for drawer construction. The joint can be assembled only by pushing the material together widthwise and by the same token that is the only way it can be disassembled.

The two pieces shown at A and B are brought together by sliding one



on to the other in the direction of the arrow. The joint may be used for an assembly with a portion extending as at C, which, of course, makes it admirably suited to such constructions as "lip-front" drawers. It should be mentioned that it can also be used for flush front drawers by letting the corners come flush.

While a joint of this kind can be produced on various machines, it can, perhaps be handled most expeditiously on the double-end tenoner as the set-up can be made in such a manner as to permit the entire cut to be made at both ends at the same time. It must be pointed out that the assembly of this type of joint particularly on wide material can present greater problems than is customary with many other methods. The most efficient assembly on such work is based on the principle of sliding both ends of the work into place at the same time. This is usually done with specially designed assembly equipment. If the two sides of the drawer can be perfectly supported on edge and in parallel, standing in vertical planes, the same distance apart as they will be in the finished production, both ends can be started at once. If synchronised pressure can then be exerted downward on both ends the assembly will readily slide together.

The Best Foundation for Woodworking Plant

WHILE it is universally recognised that concrete is a good foundation on which to place woodworking machinery, the machine should never rest directly upon it. The hard, unyielding contact with the concrete surface amplifies any vibration that may be in the machine, transmitting it back with, sometimes, disastrous results.

The most effective method of overcoming this condition is to place insulating material between the base of the machine and the concrete. In new buildings where primary installations are in order, it is best to erect a wooden floor on sleepers embedded in the concrete.

In old buildings, or secondary installations, however, this is not practical. After making sure that the top surface is flat and level for complete contact, lead or some other soft metal should be flowed over the concrete surface. The same result is obtained by placing strips of wood or old belting between the machine and the concrete.

(from page 69)

sibly a hinged and counterbalanced ladder, can often be provided to afford access to upper-floor storage compartments, high platforms on which motors, blowers or other equipment are installed, and to elevator lofts in the furniture and woodworking factory.

The workman who does the factory oiling generally appreciates having a means provided whereby he can conveniently reach elevated lineshaft hangers, countershafts, motors and other machinery which require his attention. There are also the operatives who realise the advantage of being able to swing a flight of stairs or a ladder out of the way when they work in the vicinity in which such facilities are located.

Finally—and of tremendous importance in the woodworking industry—when the floor layout is being replanned, do see that there is easy access to chemical fire extinguishers, hose connections, and other fire fighting equipment.

Bad floor layout, if it does nothing else, greatly increases the fire hazard, and that is a risk that no sensible furniture manufacturer is prepared to take.

In a later article, I hope to show how the methods of a skilled time and motion engineer can be adapted to become a really valuable asset to the furniture industry.

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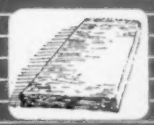

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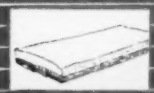

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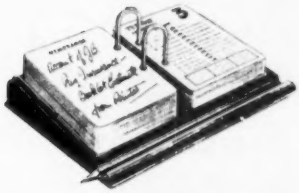

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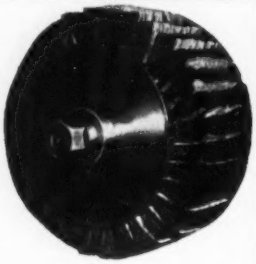

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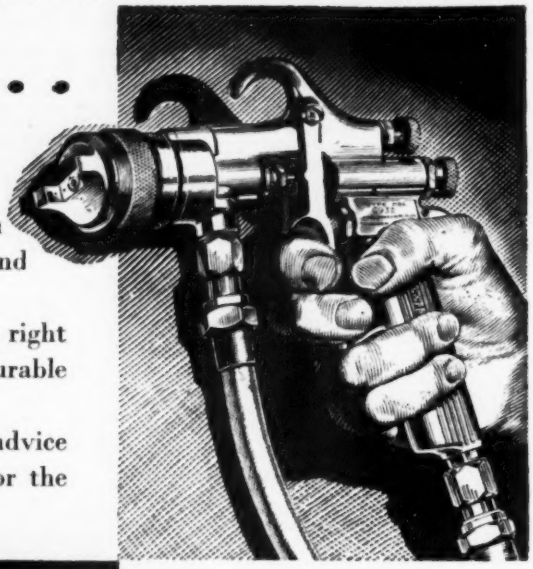

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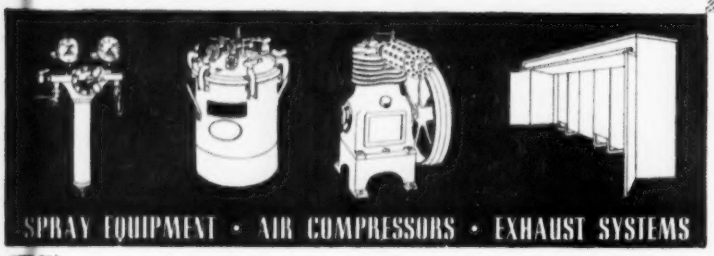

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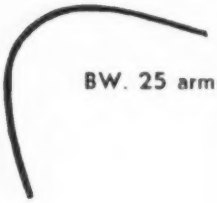

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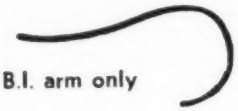

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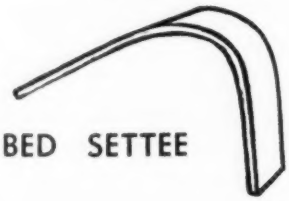

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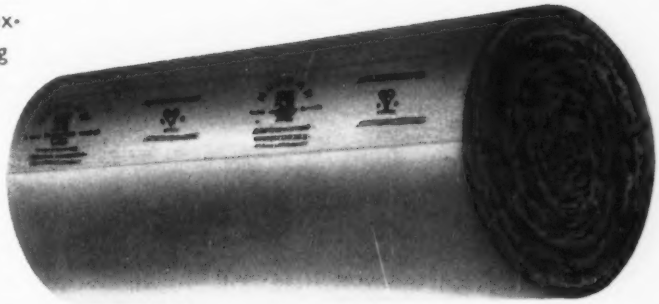

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